



Public consultation on Charging for Care and Support Policy

From 1st November 2023 to 24th January 2024 Rutland County Council is consulting on proposed changes to the Council's Charging for Care and Support Policy.

What is the Charging for Care and Support policy?

The Charging for Care and Support Policy (the policy) explains how the Council works out what people should pay towards the cost of their council-funded care and support, based on their ability to pay. We carry out a financial assessment to determine this.

Many people who receive social care and support also receive disability benefits which are paid to help people pay for their care and support.

People can either use their benefits to arrange and pay for care and support privately or they can use them to pay for care and support arranged by the Council.

The Care Act 2014 and detailed guidance sets out the rules we must follow. Within this framework, the Council has some discretion as to how it operates, and this is detailed in the policy.

Why does the policy need to be reviewed?

The objectives of the proposed changes are:

- To improve the speed of response so people know what they will need to pay promptly.
- To provide certainty of receipt of an application and any supporting evidence provided.
- To reduce the cost of processing.
- To reduce the environmental impact by reducing paper usage.
- To provide a consistent and fair approach.

What is being reviewed?

We have identified several areas for review, in summary they are:

- Applying for a financial assessment.
- Applying for 'Light Touch' assessment and self-assessments.
- Consider the Income we take into account.
- Clarify Disability Related Expenditure.

- Consider waivering charges for people in severe financial hardship or people with exceptional circumstances.

What will not change or be consulted upon?

- Updates that will not fundamentally change the policy or the amount people are charged.
- Charges for people who live in care homes.

When is the consultation taking place?

The consultation will open from 9am 1st November 2023 and close at 4pm on 24th January 2024.

How can I participate?

You can complete an online form here <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/chargingpolicy>- this is the easiest and quickest way to respond.

Alternatively, you can print a paper version of the form here <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/chargingpolicy> and send this back to us. If you can't print the form, you can call us on 01572 722577 and we can send a paper version to you.

If you can't complete the form yourself, you can ask a relative or friend to help you, alternatively you can call 01572 722577 and we can assist you.

An easy read version is also available upon request.

Who can participate?

We are seeking views from:

- Current service users and their representatives.
- Wider public and residents.
- Carers.
- Care providers.
- The voluntary sector.