

# All about you

Charging adults for  
social care services  
in the community.



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**Lancashire**  
County  
Council



# Charging adults for social care services in the community.

## What do you think?



A consultation is when the county council wants to know what you think of their new idea. The council will ask you some questions to see what you think about their new idea.



This consultation is about changes to how much adults pay for social care community services like home care and day care.



This consultation is **not** about people who live in a care home. This is called "residential care" and is not covered in this consultation.



This document explains our plans for changing the way we charge for community services.



Please read through this document and then answer the questions which start on page 8. Please let us know what you think about these plans.

# Our plans

We want to make changes because:



- We want to follow the rules set out in law.



- We want our charges to be similar to the true costs of providing services.



- The county council is not getting enough money to pay for everything we want to do.



- If we don't change the way we charge for some services we may have to reduce some of our services.



We will only ask you to pay something if you can afford to pay. If you cannot afford to pay, you will carry on getting your services without paying a charge.



To see if you can afford to pay or not, you will have had a Financial Assessment. A Financial Assessment is a review of the money you have and the benefits you get.



This assessment will find out if you will have to pay for the services you get.



Anyone who gets a financial assessment from the county council can ask that we take another look at their finances. This is called a "re-assessment".



People can also appeal against how much they are asked to pay.

At the moment, only half of the people receiving these services have to pay something toward the cost of their care.

If we go ahead with these changes, some people who currently pay towards their care will have to pay more.



But most people who pay something for their care would not see a big rise in how much they pay.



For those who pay something for their care, 7 out of 10 people would see a rise of less than £10 a week.



And 2 out of 10 people who pay something for their care would see a rise of between £10 and £20 a week.



# These are the changes we want to make:



## Idea 1.



The county council only asks you to pay for care services if you have enough left over after paying for all of the things you need.



The county council looks at how much you have to spend on the things you need for everyday life. This is called a Financial Assessment.



We will always check if you are receiving the right benefits and help you to apply for any other benefits you may be entitled to.



Through the Financial Assessment we look at how much money you have left over after you have paid for your housing costs, basic living expenses (like food) and other disability expenses. This is called **Net Disposable Income**.



At the moment, 85% of your **Net Disposable Income** can be used to pay toward your care – if you can afford to pay.



Our idea is to increase the share of **Net Disposable Income** that may be used to help pay toward your care to 100%.



This does **not** mean that all of your income or benefits can be used to pay for your care.



The county council promises that you will always be left with an amount of income that is protected. This means that this amount is for you to use and cannot be used to help pay for your care.



## QUESTION 1.

**Do you agree or disagree with Idea 1?**

Please tick one option only

Agree       Disagree

**What do you think of this?**

Please write in below





## Idea 2.

The last time the county council looked at charges for care services was seven years ago, in 2011.



Since that time the cost of providing these services has gone up by a lot.



So the county council is planning to put up the amount that we charge for providing these services.



## QUESTION 2.

**Do you agree or disagree with Idea 2?**

Please tick one option only

Agree  Disagree

**What do you think of this?**

Please write in below



## Idea 3.

A very small number of people who have been getting services from the county council for a long time have had a limit on the amount they pay.

This is called a "cap" or a "maximum charge" and means that we only ask these people to pay up to a certain amount for the services they receive.

The county council plans to remove these limits on the amount we ask these people to pay.



Anyone who receives a financial assessment from the county council can request that we take another look at their finances. This is called a "re-assessment".



People can also appeal against how much they are asked to pay.



## **QUESTION 3.**

**Do you agree or disagree with Idea 3?**

Please tick one option only

Agree       Disagree

**What do you think of this?**

Please write in below

## Are you a...?

Please tick one option only



A service user or carer



Someone who is answering for a service user or a carer



Someone else

Please say who

## What happens next?

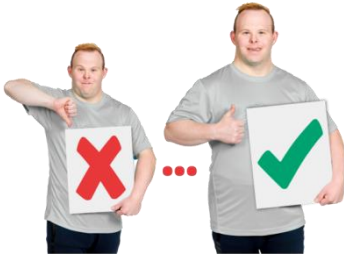


Please return this questionnaire to us by Monday 19 February 2018.



Please return this questionnaire to us at:

Care charging consultation 2018  
Lancashire County Council  
Room 43  
County Hall  
PR1 0LD



We will take your views into account when we make the final decision.



If we go ahead with these changes they would start from 1 April 2018.



If you would like to speak to someone about these ideas then you can speak to a member of staff on 01772 535216.

## Thank you!