

**To: Social Work, Health and Well-being Board**

**On: 3 March 2015**

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**Report by: Director of Children's Services**

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**Heading: Residential and Non residential Charging Framework –  
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Annual Up-rating  
2015/16**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Each year councils implement a number of updates to their charging frameworks for residential and for non residential services to reflect the annual up-rating of DWP benefits and national guidance. The general effect of increased thresholds is to allow the client to retain a greater level of income prior to charges being payable, where charging is applicable.
  - 1.2. The National Assistance Regulations, which are reviewed annually by the Government, apply when financially assessing a client's ability to pay for residential care. The rates for 2015/16 have not yet been finalised.
  - 1.3. COSLA issue guidance annually in relation to charging for non residential service. This guidance also takes into account the annual DWP upratings, which have not yet been finalised for 2015/16, although it is expected that the upratings will be in line with those in previous years.
  - 1.4. All changes apply from Monday 6 April 2015 in line with DWP benefit increases.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The Social Work, Health and Well-being Policy Board is asked to :
  - a) authorise the Director of Children's Services to update the council's financial assessment frameworks for charging purposes to reflect the DWP rates for 2015/16 once these have been notified.
  - b) Note that the Director of Children's Services will report back to the Board if the upratings are not in line with the expected levels.

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## Implications of this report

- 1. Financial Implications**  
The general effect of increased DWP thresholds and personal allowances is to allow service users to retain a greater level of income before charging is applied, where charging is applicable.
- 2. HR and Organisational Development Implications**  
None.
- 3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications**  

Community Care, Health and Well-being	- Application of National Regulations and COSLA Guidance ensures that charging for care services within Renfrewshire is in accordance with the frameworks across Scotland.
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- 4. Legal Implications**  
None.
- 5. Property/Assets Implications**  
None.
- 6. Information Technology Implications**  
None.
- 7. Equality and Human Rights Implications**
  - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website. (Report author to arrange this).
- 8. Health and Safety Implications**  
None.
- 9. Procurement Implications**  
None.
- 10. Risk Implications**  
None.
- 11. Privacy Impact**  
None.

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## List of Background Papers

none

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