

Consultation on charging for Managed Accounts: Self Funders

This consultation relates to the council's proposals to charge an administration fee where it manages accounts for self-funded clients. A self-funder is defined as a person who has eligible needs and savings above the upper capital limit, which is currently £23,250 and is therefore charged the full cost of their services.

The Council agreed to the proposal to introduce administration fees for arranging care for clients who are self-funders as it needs to make the service of arranging care for self-funders sustainable and is having to make savings due to significant reductions in its budgets.

What is being proposed?

Adults have the right to manage their own financial affairs. However, this may be difficult for some individuals due to lack of capacity, illness and or disability.

Most local authorities provide a money management service for adult social care users who are unable to manage their own financial affairs. The council recognises the importance of supporting vulnerable adults to manage their finances and to protect them from potential or actual financial abuse.

The Council currently provide an arrangement service for approximately 85 people who are self-funders. These people are charged the full cost of their services but are not charged an administration fee for the arrangement of their care.

The Care Act 2014 introduced a new duty for local authorities to meet the needs of self-funders and the power to charge an arrangement fee. This was introduced in April 2015 and applies to people who ask the Council to meet their need for most types of care and support.

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance to the Care Act, published in October 2014, sets out that the fee should include the cost of negotiating and managing the contract with the provider and cover administration costs. The guidance has been followed and an annual fee of £650 is being proposed, which would be introduced in Autumn 2019 and applied to self-funders receiving care and support.

We recognise that the above proposals will have an impact on some adults who receive this administration support from Haringey Council so therefore we are consulting on the proposal with service users, carers and other stakeholders and will bring the findings back to Cabinet for a decision.

The need for change

The council is having to make savings due to significant and recurring reductions in its budgets which are having an impact across all areas of the Council's responsibilities, including adult social care.

An increase in the numbers of self-funders who approach the Council is expected and the Council is therefore particularly aware that it is necessary to introduce an arrangement fee to cover the costs of administration.

What is currently offered?

The council currently arranges care on behalf of self-funders but does not charge for this service.

What will change?

The Council is proposing to introduce an annual administration fee where it arranges care and for payment of care charges for self-funders who have assets and properties and savings over and above £23,500.

The council will recover the cost of administration of this service and the charge will be £650 per annum for the current year. This fee is payable either in a lump sum or by instalments.

The above fees are based on Practice Direction 19B Fixed Costs in the Court of Protection. The fees and charges are subject to change.

We would like to hear your views

We would like to know what you think of the proposal outlined in this consultation paper. The consultation begins on Monday XXXXX

Please submit your comments before the consultation closes XXXX

You can have your say by completing the enclosed questionnaire and or attend one of the drop in sessions detailed below:

XXXXXX	Hornsey Library	2.30 – 4.30 pm
XXXXXX	Wood Green Library	2.30 – 4.30 pm
XXXXXX	Marcus Garvey Library	2.30 – 4.30 pm

What happens after the consultation?

Action	Date
We will consider your responses to the proposal in the consultation paper.	XXXXXX
We will prepare a report to Council’s Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation and with recommendations on the proposals. Cabinet will make a final decision on the proposals.	XXXXXX
Cabinet decision on the proposals will be published in November 2019.	XXXXXX

If you need a questionnaire translated or in an easily accessible format, please contact Mr Raj Darbhanga on 020 8489 3650 who will be able to help you.

Please return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed pre-paid envelope to:

Brokerage and quality Assurance
 Haringey Council
 2nd Floor River Park House
 225 High Road
 London N22 8HQ

Questions for charging for managed accounts consultation questionnaire

Q1. Do you agree with the proposed introduction of administration change for self-funders?

Please tick the box that applies

Yes

No

Q2. As the Council looks to make the necessary savings required whilst still supporting the most vulnerable, do you agree with the proposal to charge for this service?

Select ONE only

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Q3. If you have any further comments, please tell us below: