

Consultation on charging for Managed Accounts

This consultation relates to the council's proposals to charge an administration fee where it manages funds on behalf of clients where it is acting as the client's Appointee. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Appointee responsibility includes making and maintaining any benefit claims, collecting payments and managing the money including the payment of bills.

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 is currently able to charge Court of Protection clients based on legislative guidance issued by the Court of Protection. There is no national policy governing charging for DWP Appointeeship. Policy and charges are therefore subject to local council decisions under the Care Act 2014.

The Council is now proposing to introduce an administration fee for acting as a DWP Appointee. We recognise that this will have an impact on some adults who receive a money management service and support from Haringey Council so therefore we are consulting on the proposal with service users, carers and other stakeholders and bring the findings back to Cabinet for a decision.

The Council proposes to introduce an annual management fee where it acts as corporate Appointee for DWP income/benefits. It is proposed that this fee will be set at £650 per annum for the current year, except where the net savings of an individual are below £16,000, when an annual management fee not exceeding 3.5% of the client's net assets will be charged on the anniversary of the DWP appointing the council as corporate appointee.

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

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.

What is currently offered?

The council currently manages accounts on behalf of clients for whom it acts as corporate Appointee but does not charge for this service.

What will change?

The Council proposes to introduce an annual management fee where LBH acts as corporate appointee for DWP income/benefits which will be £650 per annum for the current year.

Where the net savings of an individual are below £16,000 an annual management fee not exceeding 3.5% of the client's net assets on the anniversary of the DWP appointing the council as corporate appointee.

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 XXXXXX

Please submit your comments before the consultation closes XXXXXX

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 2017.	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 changes?

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 increase charges 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: