



Have your say on proposed changes to the Care and support charging policy.

**15th December 2021 to
10th February 2022.**

Herefordshire Council is proposing changes to Charges for Care and Support.



Unlike the NHS, social care isn't usually free. We carry out a means-test called a financial assessment based on individual circumstances to work out how much people pay for care.

There are different rules for charging for care depending on whether a person is receiving care in a care home, or in their own home or other setting.

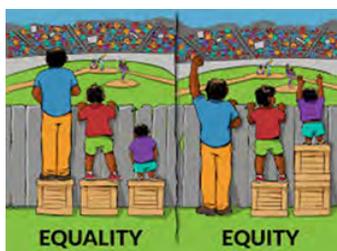


Central government sets guidance on how councils must charge for care and have its own policy explaining how they charge.



We are doing this to make sure we are taking a fair and consistent approach to charging for care, and that everyone pays the appropriate amount for the services they receive, based on their needs and their ability to pay.

Equity recognises that each person has different circumstances.





Proposal 1

Increase the minimum income guarantee amount (MIG). This is the amount of your income the government states you need to meet your living costs.

This will reduce how much people will pay towards care and support charges.

Whatever your age, if you pay towards your care you will be better off. You will keep more of your money.



Proposal 2

Set the minimum income guarantee amount (MIG) for working age people under 25 to the same level as the MIG for working age people aged 25 and over. Currently people under 25 pay more for their care charges.

Fairer charges for working age people.



Proposal 3

Remove the discretionary income disregard applied to Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance paid at the high rate and replace it with an allowance for any disability related expenses paid for private night care.

This could affect you if you have night time carers. If you do not have night time care you could pay more.



Proposal 4

Charge for short stays in a care home (sometimes called respite care) for up to 8 weeks over a year under the same rules as paying for care and support in own home, or in the community.

Respite can give your carer a break or to help you to stay independent for longer. It will cost you less under this proposal.



Proposal 5

Charge people with capital assets over £23,250 the full cost for home care services. Self-funders pay administration fees.

People who self-fund their care and live in rural areas may have to pay more for care at home

What effect will these proposals have on charges for care?



If all of these proposals went ahead we expect 73% of people who are currently paying for care and support at home or in the community will have a reduction in charges, 8% of those people will no longer have to pay for care, and 27% may have an increase in charges.

Currently around 22% of people receiving care and support at home or in the community don't pay towards it following a financial assessment, 24% of these people may have to pay towards their care and support as a result of these proposals.

Talk to us about the proposals. We welcome your views



Call the charging for care helpline 01432 260009. You will hear an automated message asking you for your name, address, postcode, contact details and availability for a telephone discussion. We will aim to call you back within three working days.



Alternatively, you can email chargingforcare@herefordshire.gov.uk with your questions or to request a telephone call back

Email chargingforcare@herefordshire.gov.uk to request a paper copy of the questionnaire