

AGENDA ITEM NO.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

DATE: 15TH JUNE, 2015

SUBJECT:

Introduction of a new charge for a placement into a flexi-bed in a Care Home

Purpose:

To introduce a new charge for a placement into a flexi-bed in a care home

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

To approve the recommendations in the report.

REASONS:

To amend the current policy and to charge for placements accessing a flexi-bed based on the flexi-bed eligibility criteria.

To deliver the PBB approved by members.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted : NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES – 15th June, 2015

Council Decision Required YES – 8th July, 2015

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. J. Tremlett (Social Care & Health Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Communities Name of Head of Service: Jake Morgan Report Author: Lyn Walters	Designations: Director of Community Services Senior Business Support Manager	Tel Nos. 01267 224698 01267 228768 E Mail Addresses: Jakemorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk Dlwalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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**Introduction of a new charge for a placement into a
flexi-bed in a Care Home**

The Authority provides residential care through direct provision within its own care homes and through purchasing placements from the independent sector. In July 2014 members reaffirmed the practice and policy for charging residents in care homes and, as part of this decision, members agreed that “convalescence” and “flexi-bed” placements were to continue to be free to service users accessing the service for the first 42 days of any individual placement.

The purpose of the services are as follows:

Convalescence – to enable older people to maintain their independence, to gain confidence and progress with their recovery in preparation for their return home or other long term care arrangements.

Flexi beds – to facilitate hospital discharge and prevent hospital admission. In particular when:

- awaiting start or restart of home based care package;
- awaiting minor adaptations to the home;
- awaiting minor adaption to home i.e. handrails;
- in need of short term support following or preventing hospital stay;
- where there is a housing issue that cannot be met by the housing options available;
- break down in care arrangements.

Residents can stay in a flexi-bed or convalescence bed for longer than 6 weeks on any one occasion but most residents are charged for their stay from the 43rd night (beginning of the 7 week). There are exceptional occasions when a flexi-bed placement might be extended beyond 6 weeks and when no charge is applied.

Both services above are delivered from designated/allocated beds within the Local Authority Care Home sector currently and neither service is currently purchased from the independent sector with the exception of very rare/occasional occurrences.

As part of the Departmental PBB proposals approved by members, it is proposed to charge for placements into flexi-beds but for placements into convalescence beds to remain free for up to 42 nights on any one occasion as it is currently.

This report is therefore being considered by members as a change of policy.

Current usage is shown below.

	No of Nights	No of People
2013/14	4880	173
2014/15 to end of January 2015	2057	77

Within the regulations there is an option to charge a flat rate fee (without a means test) for up to 8 weeks of a stay. Alternatively there is an option to formally assess a resident's ability to pay from the first day of placement. In either case there is a presumption that no one will pay more than they could afford and the way to guarantee this would be a financial assessment applied from the start of placement.

As flexi-bed placements are usually for short periods, it is anticipated that the 'temporary' charging rules would be applied for the whole of the "flexi-bed" placement and, as a result, the value of a resident's main residence/home would not be included in the financial assessment. This means that the value of their main residence/home would not be counted as a financial asset for the period the resident was in a flexi-bed placement meeting the flexi-bed criteria. The temporary rate can apply for up to 52 weeks but the flexi-bed eligibility criteria would still limit the time someone stays in a flexi-bed. However, it is important to note that the financial assessment will result in a different charge for different individuals and the nightly charge could range from £17.96 per night (£125.70 per week) to £83.41 per night (£583.88 per week).

Based on current activity, the likely income generated for charging for a flexi-bed placement would be £73K per annum.

Recommendation

That residents who are assessed as needing a care home placement based on the flexi-bed eligibility criteria and reasons are charged for the service from the first day of admission.

That the CRAG rules are applied to the placement and that residents are charged based on a financial assessment from the date of admission and not charged a flat rate for the service.

The eligibility criteria and reasons/purpose for accessing a flexi-bed remain unchanged.

The new charge to be implemented from 3rd August 2015.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Jake Morgan Director of Community Services

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A
2. Local Member(s) - N/A
3. Community / Town Council – N/A
4. Relevant Partners - N/A
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection