

Supporting People

Charging Policy

1. The application of the Charging Policy will be decided by the support provided rather than the client group.
2. Short-term services intended to promote independent living within 2 years will be exempt from charging.
3. Long-term services which maintain a limited degree of independent living which is not expected to increase and may diminish over time will be chargeable.
4. Tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit will be exempt from charges
5. Tenants who are or who become ineligible for Housing Benefit will become eligible to pay full charges or what they can afford following a means test. Loss of entitlement to Housing Benefit should be reported to the Supporting People team by the client.
6. Tenants on partial Housing Benefit will either be exempt from charging, or only pay what they can afford following a means test.
7. Tenants on low income but not in receipt of Housing Benefit can apply for a means test which could reduce their charge.
8. Tenants requesting a financial assessment will have this carried out in the same way as personal care clients thus, from April 2003 the assessment will take place in their own homes and the result will be communicated to the tenant at the time of the assessment.
9. As part of the assessment the tenant's eligibility for welfare benefits will be checked and, where necessary, they will be assisted to complete benefit application forms.
10. Tenants paying reduced charges following a means test will be responsible for notifying the local authority of any changes in their circumstances which might result in the charge being altered.
11. Tenants will be expected to confirm periodically that the financial information they have provided is still valid.
12. The assessment used for Supporting People will be the same as for non-residential Community Care services to avoid duplication and confusion for all participants.

Reviewed January 2007

