Introduction

Doncaster Council is looking at different ways it could charge people for some adult social care services.

We will be running a consultation from Monday the 14th October 2019 to 22nd December 2019 to find out what people think of our ideas.

The consultation will give people a chance to let the council know how they feel about the changes and how the changes might affect them.

This booklet tells you how you can have your say.

It also says why the council is looking at charges, their ideas and what will happen next.
Why is the council looking at these changes now?

The amount of money the council gets from the government has gone down by half over the last ten years.

The number of adults in Doncaster that need support is also going up.

This makes it harder for the council to run its services.

The way we charge for services in Doncaster has not changed for a long time and we feel now is the right time to look at this.

The changes will make charges fairer and easier to understand.
The consultation will look at 9 areas.

We want to know what people think about changes to these areas.

At the end of the consultation we will look at everything people have told us.

We will write a report and show this to the council’s cabinet. Council Cabinet are the people who make the decisions about what happens in the council.

This will happen in February 2020.

When the cabinet have made their decision, the changes may start to happen by April 2020. Some changes might take a few years to fully happen.
What are financial assessments?

When the council looks at care and support for a person it carries out a financial assessment. This looks at the person’s money.

The council will look at the money the person gets (income) and the money they spend (outgoings). It will also look at the person’s savings.

There are laws that tell the council how they should do a financial assessment.

When the council does the financial assessment, they will make sure people are not charged more than the government says they can afford for care.

The law says that the council must make sure that everyone who gets care services in their own home must have enough money left, after paying for their care, to live on.
If the council decide to make changes to all 9 areas in the consultation. The money the council gets will go up by £2.5 million.

The council will put this money back into services to make sure there is enough money to meet the needs of the people of Doncaster.

What are the proposed changes?

The council is looking at the following ideas - BUT no decisions have been made yet.
Idea 1 - Home Alarm Service

At the moment everyone that uses the Home Care Alarm Service is charged £3.30 per week.

Some people do not have to pay for this service.

The amount people pay for this service has not changed for a long time, but the cost of the service is going up.

The idea is to change the amount people pay to £3.64 per week for the Pendant Alarm Service and £1.50 per week for the Response Service.

People can choose which service is best for them.

They do not have to have both services but if they do this will cost £5.14 (3.64 + £1.50).
Idea 1 - Who would be affected?

About 4200 people would be affected by this idea apart from people who:

1. Get this service because it is part of their assessed social care needs.

2. Get reablement services – this is a service that helps people get their independence back. People get this for up to 6 weeks.
Idea 2 – Care at Home

The idea is that if you can afford it, you will pay for all of the care workers that give you homecare and support.

This is because some people have two or more care workers to help them, but they only pay for one.

But if you have a Direct Payment you pay for all of your care workers. The council wants to make this the same for everyone.

Idea 2 - Who would be affected?

At the moment there are only about 10 people in Doncaster that might pay more.
Idea 3 – Day Opportunities - Day Service and Transport

The council’s day centres are called ‘SMILE’, lots of the services run by SMILE are in the community where people live.

About 280 people use day services in Doncaster. Everyone who uses a day service has a financial assessment to make sure they only pay what they can afford to.

The idea is that the council will increase the amount of money people pay for day services at SMILE.

This is because the cost of the service and transport to this service is going up each year.

At the moment people who can afford it pay £31.00 per day for day services. But it costs the council £46.00 per day for moderate support and £76.00 per day for high level support.
The idea is to change the amount people pay for Day Opportunities to £46.00 per day for moderate support and to £76.00 per day for high level support.

People pay £3.00 for day centre transport but it costs the council £10.00 per journey.

The idea is to change the amount to £4.00 per day after April 2020 and this will increase by £1.00 a year after this until the charge is the same as the cost.

**Who will this affect?**

Only new people using day services will pay the increased charge.

About 150 people who use transport services each year would be affected.
Idea 4 – Safeguarding Adults Personal Assets

At the moment 500 people use the Councils Safeguarding Adults Personal Assets Team (SAPAT).

The council does charge for some of the services this team offers but not all of them.

The council does not have to run this service but if this service was not available through the council people in Doncaster would have to pay a different service to help them.

The idea is that the council charges between £2.03 - £48.00 a month for this service. There will also be other charges for protecting people’s property and transport for visiting people.

Who will this affect?

This will affect about 269 people in Doncaster.
Idea 5 – Arrangements for people who pay for their own care in full

If people have £23,250 in savings the Government says that they can pay for their own care and support.

At the moment the council helps 450 people every year to get their own care and support. But the council does not charge people for this.

The idea is that the council charge people £300.00 per year for this service.

The council is not allowed to charge people for giving information, advice or carrying out an assessment.

The charge is for helping people to set up a service and the paperwork that comes with this.

Who will this affect?

At the moment this will affect about 450 people.
Changes to Financial Assessments

When the council looks at care and support for a person we carry out a financial assessment.

This looks at the person’s money. The council will look at the money the person gets (income) and the money they spend (outgoings). It will also look at the person’s savings.

There are lots of rules about how the council should do financial assessments.

Doncaster Council needs to change the way it does all financial assessments using these rules so that they are fair and easier to understand and use.

By doing this the money the council gets will go up by about £1.7 million.
Idea 6 – Maximum weekly charge for non-residential services

At the moment the most people are charged for home care and support is £429.20 a week. For some people it costs more than this but the council does not ask for more money.

The idea is to get rid of this maximum charge and charge people for the full cost of their care. Only people who can afford to will pay this.

Who will this affect?

About 10 people might have to pay more than the £429.20 per week.
Idea 7 – Enhanced daily living component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

At the moment, when the council does a financial assessment it looks at the money a person has coming in, going out and any savings.

At the moment the council does not include the enhanced part of the personal independence payment as money coming in when it does a financial assessment.

Lots of councils include this money when they are doing a financial assessment.

The idea is to include the enhanced daily living part of personal independence payments in financial assessments from April 2020.

Who will this affect?

This will affect about 261 people, by doing this the money the council gets would go up by about £290,000.
Idea 8 – Financial Assessments for Residential Respite and Short Stay

If a person uses respite away from their home to give their family carers a break the cost is included in their financial assessment.

Often this respite happens in a care home.

The Care Act says that if a person is using respite the council can use residential or non-residential rules to do a financial assessment.

At the moment the council uses non-residential rules. The idea is that the council will change this and use residential rules when the respite is in a care home.

Who will this affect?

This will affect anyone that uses respite or short stay accommodation. About 395 people used respite care in 2018/19.
Idea 9 – The Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG)

When the council carries out a financial assessment it looks at the amount of money the person gets (income) and the money they spend (outgoings).

This is to make sure a person that people have enough money to live on after they have paid for their care and support.

The government gives all councils a guide to how much a person needs to keep after they have paid towards their care. This is called a Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG).

At the moment Doncaster council does not use the guide set by the Government, it uses its own guide to do this and this is more generous than the one the government uses.

The idea is that Doncaster council will lower the MIG rate in its financial assessments from April 2020. But it will take about 3 years for the council amount to go down to the government amount.
Who will this affect?

This will affect about 1658 people in Doncaster,

• About 801 people would pay less than £3.86 more per week.

• About 51 people would pay between £3.87 and £10.00 more per week.

• About 736 people would pay between £10.00 - £20.06 more per week.

• About 69 would pay between £20.07 and £40.00 more per week.

• We think only 1 person would have to pay more than £40.00 per week.

There would be a bigger impact on couples and the council thinks this will affect about 104 people. The council will work with couples to look at this.
What happens next?

At the end of the consultation the council will write a report that shows what people have said. This report will go to the council cabinet (these are the people who make decisions).

The council cabinet will meet in February 2020 to look at what people have said and make a decision.

The council’s decision will be put on the council website.