



Changes to our adult social care charging policies

Read our ideas and tell us what you think



Changing the way we charge people for care and support

What is adult social care



We are Telford and Wrekin Council.
We give care and support to people in our area.



Social care means care and support that you might need in at home, in the local community or in a care home.



This could be something like going to a day centre or a carer coming into your home.



If you are aged 18 and older and need support from us, we call it **adult social care**.

How things work now



If you need care and support from adult social care services, we will talk with you. We will work out what care and support you need.

This is called a **personal care act assessment**.



Then we need to work out who will pay for your care and support.



We will look at how much money you have. Then we will work out if you have to pay something towards your care and support.

This called a **financial assessment**.

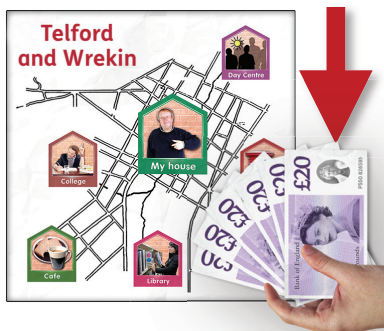


You might not have to pay anything for your care and support. But, most people have to pay something.

Why we need to make changes



We have some old rules about how we do things. We have not made any changes to our rules for a long time.



This means that people pay less in Telford and Wrekin than in other places.



Lots of things have changed since we wrote our rules.



We get less money to pay for care and support and more people need our help.



This means we need to change the way we charge people for care and support.

Change 1: We will change what amount we use for the Minimum Income Guarantee



After you have paid for your care, you should still have some money left every week.



You use this money to buy things like food, bills and travel.



The lowest amount of money you should have left is called a **minimum income guarantee**.

We call it **MIG** for short.



The amount we set for MIG is bigger than what the Government says.



We want to make the amount of MIG smaller.



The new amount will be the same as the amount set by the Government.



This means that some people will have less money left every week.

Change 2: We will include a new tariff for people who get care and support in their own home



If you need care and support in your own home, we will do a financial assessment.



First, we look at how much money you have coming in every week.

This is from things like:



- pensions. This is money you get when you are old enough to stop working



- benefits



- money you make on your savings and other things you own



We call this money your **weekly income**.



If you have between **£14,250** and **£23,250** in savings, we include some of it as your weekly income.



For every £250 over £14,250 you have in savings, we will count **£1** as weekly income. We call this a **tariff**.



Example:

If you have £1000 over £14,250 in savings, we will count £4 as weekly income.



This means some people might have to pay more for their care and support.

Change 3: We will start to include other benefits when we do your financial assessment



Under our new rules we will start to include benefits that we didn't before.

These benefits are the **high rates** of **Attendance Allowance** and **Disability Living Allowance**.



These are benefits you get to help you pay for extra things because of your disability or illness.



This means some people may have to pay more for their care and support.

Change 4: Ask people to pay when we arrange their care



You might have to pay for all of your care and support.



But you might ask us to arrange your care and support for you.

At the moment it is free for us to do this.



Under our new rules, we will charge you some money for arranging your care.

Change 5: New charges for people who use Appointee and Deputy services



Appointee Services is when we are in charge of looking after your benefits. This might be because you aren't able to do it yourself.



We use your benefits to pay for your care and bills. Bills like your council tax or gas bill.



Under the new rules, we will start to charge you money for using Appointee Services.



Deputy Services are when we are in charge of all of your money. This could be because you:

- cannot manage your money by yourself

and



- have no one else to support you



There are 2 things we will ask people to pay for:



Charge 1. A charge for using bank cards or pre payment cards

Sometimes when we manage your money we have to pay bank charges.



We have to pay the charges when you use a bank card or **pre pay cards**.

A **pre pay card** is when you put money onto a card to pay for what you need.



Under the new rules, people who use Appointee or Deputy Services will have to pay these charges.

Charge 2. A charge for people who live in rented housing and use Deputy Services



Rent is money you pay to live in your house. You do not own the house.



Council

You will have to pay the council to help you manage your house or flat.

At the moment this service is free.

Change 6: New charges for using Community Alarms



A **Community Alarm** is a device that can help to keep you safe.

Sometimes this is a necklace or bracelet with a button on.



If you have a fall or become ill, you can press the alarm. The alarm will tell someone to come and help you.



You can press the alarm any time you need to in the day and at night.



At the moment, it is free to use a Community Alarm.

Under the new rules, we will start to charge a fee for this.

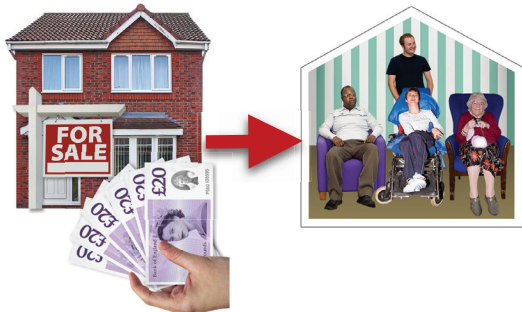
Change 7: Making Deferred Agreement fees bigger



If you become ill and have to go into a care home, you have to pay for this.



A **Deferred Agreement** means you can put off paying care home charges until you sell your home.



You can use the money from selling your home to pay for the care home.



We already charge people money for a deferred agreement.



Under the new rules, we will ask people to pay more for this.

What happens next



The changes would start in **January 2024**.

We will give you lots of time to get ready for when our new rules start.



Important

We will make sure you are not charged more than you can afford to pay.



We will make sure we explain clearly what the new rules will mean for you.



Everyone will get a list of what charges they will have to pay and when.

Tell us what you think



We want to know what you think about our new rules on charging for services.



We will listen to what people tell us before we make any new rules and changes.



We will look at how people think the new rules will affect them and listen to any worries they have.

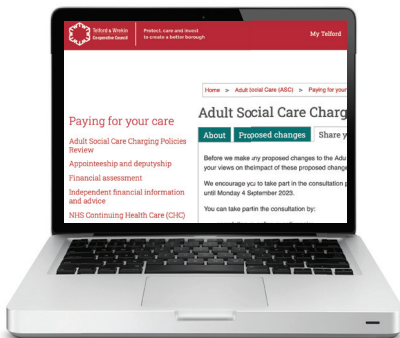
How to have your say

To tell us what you think about the new rules you can:



- fill in our easy read questionnaire.

Contact us if you need a copy of the questionnaire.



- fill in a questionnaire online at:
www.telford.gov.uk/ASCcharging

The online questionnaire is not in easy read.



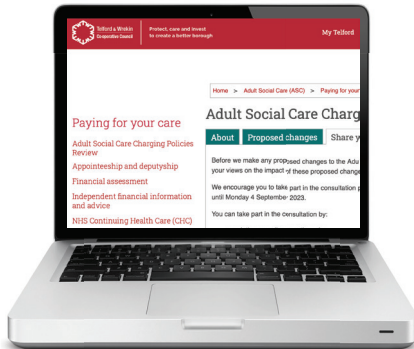
- meet us

We are going to hold some meetings.

We will have some face to face meetings and some will be online.



You need to book to come to the meetings.



You can find out when we will be having our meetings and book here:

www.telford.gov.uk/ASCcharging



You need to send your answers back to us by **Monday 4th September 2023**.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the new rules or need an easy read questionnaire, contact us:



By email:

ASCcharging@telford.gov.uk



By phone:

01952 380 000



We are open from 9am to 5pm,
Monday to Friday.

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