

Adult Social Care charging policy

Care Cap Consultation for Non Residential Charging July 2024

The consultation will run from 15 July 2024 to 25 August 2024.

We advise that you read this if you receive care and support services from the Council.

If you would like to receive this consultation document in a different format (in EasyRead or a larger font for example) or translated, please call 020 3373 2250.

This telephone number will be open from 15 July to 25 August 2024 from

- Mondays 10am-12pm
- Wednesdays 5-7pm
- Thursday 1-3pm

Outside of these hours, you will be able to leave a message and an officer will call you back, alternatively you can email us at chargingconsultation@newham.gov.uk



1. Introduction – charging for care and support

Newham council is responsible for adult social care services for adults aged 18 or over. As is the case for most councils in London, Newham charges residents who are able to pay for these services.

Everybody who receives a service provided by adult social care has a financial assessment. This works out whether they can afford to contribute towards their care cost. Currently around 40% of people receiving care services in Newham pay no charge at all.

The remaining residents pay a level of contribution that is wide ranging from £2.50 per week to the current cap of £400 per week. This is determined by the financial assessment.

2. What are the changes we are proposing?

There are two proposals that we would like to consider with you.

Proposal 1 – Removal of Cap

We are proposing the removal of the current cap of £400 per week. This means that if your care costs more than £400 per week, and you have been assessed to pay the full cost up to the current cap your contribution would increase. The increase will be up to the maximum cost of your care. We can let you know what this if you do not already know. If your cost of care is currently below the £400 cap, you will not see any change unless you have an increase to your care provided at a later time.

Proposal 2 – Cap increased to £1000 per week

Our second proposal is to increase the cap to £1000 per week. This means that if your care costs more than £1000 per week, and you have been assessed to pay the full cost up to the current cap your contribution would increase. The increase will be up to the maximum cost of your care and then from April 2025 the cap would be removed completely as per option 1. We can let you know what this is if you do not already know. If your cost of care is currently below the £1000 cap, you will not see any change unless you have an increase to your care provided at a later time,

It is anticipated that the above proposals could impact around 4% of those who are currently financially assessed by adult social care.

3. Government legislation

The Government has given councils the power to charge people what they are financially assessed as being able to afford towards the cost of their care. This is carried out under section 14 of the Care Act 2014. Councils can decide not to charge or charge people less than suggested. Councils cannot charge people more than it costs to deliver the care.

There are some proposals from Central Government which look to change the way charging is applied and may include a limit on lifetime care costs. We await further legislative direction which may impact on Newham's approach to charging in future.

4. Why are we proposing these changes?

The proposals outlined in this report will only affect residents who have been financially assessed as having the financial ability to pay the full cost of their chargeable care and support costs at more than £400 per week.

5. How we can help you

Everybody who receives an adult social care service has a financial assessment, which works out whether they can afford to contribute towards their care cost.

You will have an opportunity to be financially re-assessed and receive dedicated advice on what benefits might be available to you. You may wish to consider other care options that may provide better value for money for you.

We appreciate that these proposals may cause some concern. However, if you have information about your financial circumstances that you think the council should consider when charging for care services, we would like to hear from you.

6. How can I take part in the consultation?

The Council is keen to hear your thoughts and views on the proposals.

The consultation will run from the 15 July to the 25 August 2024.

We want to ensure that as many people as possible provide their feedback.

This can be via one of the following ways:

- Complete the paper questionnaire and return it to Newham Council, Adult Social Care, Financial Assessment and Charging Team, Newham Dockside (First Floor West), 100 Dockside Road, E16 2QU
- Email us at chargingconsultation@newham.gov.uk
- Telephone our dedicated number on 020 3373 2250
- Visit one of our drop in venues at The Resource Centre Chargeable Lane or Stratford Library
- One of our two online webinars
- In person workshop with our Residents Forum group

7. What happens after the consultation closes?

The consultation closes Sunday 25 August 2024.

After the closing date, all your feedback and suggestions will be brought together anonymously into a report. Your feedback will be used to help make a decision on the proposed change. A decision will be required by the Council's Cabinet.

If a decision is made to implement one of the proposed changes to remove the cap on non-residential charging individual letters will be sent to everyone who is directly affected by the change. If accepted, the proposed changes will be implemented from Autumn 2024. The actual date will be confirmed in writing once the decision has been finalised.

Our dedicated officers are here to provide support to you. This might be in regards to the financial assessment process, information on debt or may be about the care you receive.

8. Timescales

The consultation will run from Monday 15 July to Sunday 25 August 2024.