

Corporate Financial Appointee Consultation



Durham County Council are thinking about starting to charge for using our Corporate Financial Appointee services.

Background



Some people struggle to manage their own money



Sometimes family and friends will help people to manage their money. They are known as appointees.



Some people don't have any friends or family that are able to help.



If someone says they don't have any family or friends to help them, Durham County Council can become their Appointee.



The first step of the process is doing a Mental Capacity Assessment.

A Mental Capacity Assessment helps us work out if the person needs us to manage their finances



By law we only need to look after social security benefits for the person, but we usually help with other finances too.



Other councils charge for this service but at the moment we offer it for free.

We are looking into introducing a charge from October 2023

What We Are Suggesting



The new cost would be:

£5.00 per week for people who live in a care home



Or

£7.50 per week for people who live independently



The reason that it costs more for people living independently is that it is likely they will need more support.

What Other Businesses and Councils Charge



If someone doesn't have any family or friends to help them, some businesses provide the service and become their Appointee.



They charge from £7.70 to £11.25 per week for people who live in a care home.



And from £13.45 to £25.00 per week who live independently.

How much they charge depends on how much help the person needs



Other local councils Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle, Redcar and Cleveland and North Tyneside charge between £5.00 and £19.50 per week

Who Will Be Affected?



We will not charge people who have less than £1000.00 in their bank account.



The Team will continue to work with people on their weekly budget. If these charges apply to you, The Team will help you work it into your budget.



Anyone who pays towards their care costs might be able to have this service as part of their Disability Related Expenditures (DRE)

Have your say



We are asking everyone that will be affected by these changes how they feel so we can understand how to support them.



You can tell us how you feel by filling in the questionnaire that comes with this information pack.



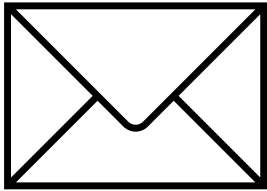
We will stop taking feedback from people on Friday 19 May 2023 at 5.00PM

What Happens Next?



Your answers will help us to work out what happens next. They will be shown to the Corporate Management Team.

If everyone agrees then the charges will start from the 1 of October 2023.



If you have any questions, please email:
socdartinbox@durham.gov.uk