FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – 334/158

Dear Sir/Madam

Your request for information has now been considered and the information requested is provided below.

Request/Response:

I am writing to make an open Government request for the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. Has the local authority increased service user contribution rates for domiciliary care visits for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 above inflation (please provide information for each year respectively)? If so, how much have they increased by (per hour)?

   Answer:
   The service user contribution rate for domiciliary care is dependent upon the individual's circumstances including their income, savings, and disability-related expenditure. There has been no general increase other than changes on individual contribution rates. From 1/4/2015 £15.00 per hour increasing to £16.46 per hour from 1/9/2016.

2. Has the local authority introduced/increased social care service user charges for transport for any of the following for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each financial year respectively)? If so, how much is the charge/increase?

   - For transport to medical appointments
   - To/from a day centre
   - To/from respite facility
   - To access facilities in the community which are included in a person's care plan
   - To get to work (where a person receives support in their care plan from a care worker)

   Answer:
   Rutland County Council has not introduced/increased social care service user charges for transport for any of the above for the financial years 2017/18, 2016/17 or 2015/16.

3. Has the local authority introduced/increased an upfront arrangement care charge for self-funders for the years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016
(please provide information for each financial year respectively)? If so, how much are they/how much have they increased by?

Answer:
Rutland County Council introduced a charge of £114.50 as a one off cost from 1/9/2016 – this has not increased.

4. Has the local authority introduced/increased an on-going charge for arrangements with self-funders for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each financial year respectively)? If so, how much are they/how much have they increased by?

Answer:
There is no ongoing charge.

5. Have you introduced a set/assumptive rate for Disability Related Expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018, or in the two previous financial years (please provide information for each year respectively)? If so, please clarify what this rate is.

Answer:
Within Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) there is a set rate for laundry which has been £4.00 a week for all years. All other DRE is assessed individually.

6. Do you include the higher rate of PIP in charging for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each year respectively)? If so, is this a new inclusion?

Answer:
Since its introduction, higher rate PIP has been used in domiciliary care assessments. However, we disregard the difference between the higher and lower rates unless the client is resident in supported accommodation.

7. Have you introduced/increased charges for respite/breaks for care users for the financial years; 2017/2018, 2016/2017 or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each year respectively)? If so how much is this charge/increase (in %)?

Answer:
The service user contribution rate for respite is dependent upon the individual’s circumstances. There has been no general increase other than changes on individual contribution rates.

8. Have you introduced/increased charges for any of the following during the financial years: 2017/2018, 2016/2017, or 2015/2016 (please provide information for each financial year respectively)?

- Laundry service
- Cleaning service
- Gardening services
- Handyman services
- Telecare
- Food shopping
- Meals on wheels

Answer:
Rutland County Council has not introduced/increased charges for any of the above for the financial years 2017/18, 2016/17 or 2015/16

9. Are you aware of any restrictions on care users as being able to access the 12-week property disregard for residential care as result of local authority policy changes?

Answer:
There are no restrictions on any client receiving the 12-week property disregard where it is applicable.

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If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please contact the Head of Corporate Governance, Rutland County Council, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP
You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House, Water lane
Wilmslow, Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545700

Yours faithfully

FOI Administrator
Corporate Support Team, Rutland County Council