
SOCIAL CARE FEES AND CHARGES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to establish a charge of £5 per week for the responder service starting in September 2026, and to raise the social care weekly fee cap from £145 to £167.
- 1.2 The setting of fees and charges for Social Work is reserved for the Council and therefore these proposed changes / new charges require approval by Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council:
1. Approve the introduction of a £5 per week charge for the responder service and note that the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) expects to implement the charge from September 2026 to allow sufficient time to implement and communicate the change; and
 2. Approve the increase in the social care weekly charging cap from £145 to £167 from 1 July 2026.

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 The Integration Joint Board (IJB) approved its budget and savings plan for 2026/27 at its meeting held on the 25th March 2026 ([IJB meeting papers](#)). In response to a public engagement exercise, it was decided that the responder service should be maintained as a 24 hour service and should be protected from the savings programme. It was also agreed that the service in future would be part funded by the introduction of a new fee set at £5 per week.
- 3.2 There is a cap on the weekly contributions individuals can be asked to make towards the cost of their full package of social care. The cap was set at £125 from 2019/20 until 2024/25. It increased to £145 in 2025/26 and it is now proposed to increase it to £167 for 2026/27.
- 3.3 The increase in fees and charges is necessary for the HSCP to deliver upon its savings programme and to operate within its approved budget.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 This report seeks formal approval for the new charge for the responder service at £5 per week. It also requests approval for an increase in the weekly cap on Social Work / Social Care fees to accommodate this and the inflationary increase on the cost of providing care.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy – none.
- 5.2 Financial – the increase will enable the HSCP to recover additional fees as a contribution to the cost of providing social care services.
- 5.3 Legal – none.
- 5.4 HR – there is additional resourcing required to establish the new charge and administer it in the longer term.
- 5.5 Customer Service – the introduction of a fee will retain the responder service.
- 5.6 Risk – The proposed fees outlined in this report aim to address the financial risk facing the IJB including delivery of its budget and savings programme in 2026/27.
- 5.7 Climate Change – none.
- 5.8 Fairer Scotland Duty – An Integrated Impact Assessment was carried out by the HSCP.
- 5.9 Equalities (protected characteristics) – An Integrated Impact Assessment was carried out by the HSCP.
- 5.10 Consumer Duty – An Integrated Impact Assessment was carried out by the HSCP.
- 5.11 Island Communities – An Integrated Impact Assessment was carried out by the HSCP.
- 5.12 Children’s Rights and Wellbeing – An Integrated Impact Assessment was carried out by the HSCP.

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