

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

3 October 2024

Report by Chief Officer – Health and Social Care Partnership

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP  
CHARGING FOR SERVICES 2024/25 AND BEYOND

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To update Cabinet on the progress of moving to implementation of charging for non-residential services in 2025/26 and to request an increase to existing charges for Community Alarms and Bonnyton House.
2. For this current financial year, it is proposed that the Community Alarm charge is increased from £3.25 to £4.90 per week and the Bonnyton House charge increased from £912.80 to £960 per week, effective from 1 January 2025 and subject to the ability to pay.

**RECOMMENDATION**

3. The Cabinet is asked to:
  - (a) note this update on charging within the HSCP,
  - (b) agree the proposed increase to existing charges for Community Alarms to £4.90 per week and Bonnyton House to £960 per week, effective from 1 January 2025, and
  - (c) note the annual report in November / December will provide the detail on new charges as well as the usual approach to annual inflation.

**BACKGROUND**

4. The charging for services report to Cabinet is usually produced annually and identifies the proposed charges for the coming year. In the report for 2024/25, the HSCP requested the ability to bring a report during this financial year if required.
5. The legislation supporting the integration of health and social care determines that the authority and approval for setting charges for social care remains with the Council, this function was not delegated to the Integration Joint Board (IJB).
6. The recommendations in this report are a result of the Income Generation Short Life Working Group (IGSLWG) established at the request of the IJB. This group was set up to explore the implementation of wider charging for non-residential care as well as review of existing charges. The IJB endorsed the recommendations of the IGSLWG at their meeting on 14 August 2024.
7. The additional in-year report is necessary as two existing charges need to be increased to ensure additional income is generated, per the savings targets within the 2024/25 budget agreed by the IJB in March 2024.

8. The 2024/25 budget includes a savings target of £0.2 million income, with an increase in 2025/26 to £1.5 million. For 2024/25, the HSCP has achieved £0.058m so far from inflation and premises related income.
9. The IJB received a progress report at its meeting on 14 August, with a previous update at a seminar on 29 May on the wider work of the IGSLWG. This included the implementation of expanding the charges for non-residential care, with the next report due in September setting out the next steps with a focus on consultation and engagement throughout October with a range of key stakeholders and in particular those who will be directly impacted.
10. The outcome of this consultation will be included in a further report to the IJB as well as the annual charging report to Cabinet for 2025/26.
11. The original intention was to bring this report to Cabinet in June, however the timescale was revised given the timing of the UK General Election.

## REPORT

12. The HSCP budget savings for 2024/25 includes £0.2 million for additional income.
13. The savings target for 2025/26 will include new charging for non-residential care and support to be in place by April 2025. Given the implementation timeframe for the new case recording system and associated finance module the only realistic option in the current year to generate additional income is to increase existing charges for community alarms and for Bonnyton House.
14. The IGSLWG had previously proposed the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2024, as the date to increase these two existing charges. This allowed a 3 month period from any decision for detailed communication and implementation. This timescale has now been revised to 1 January 2025 to allow the same 3 month lead in period. This would give 3 months of increased income for 2024/25.
15. Our current 2024/25 weekly charge for community alarms is £3.25 and the associated income budget is £0.38 million. Within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde partnerships the current charges are shown below and we are 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest:

HSCP	£ per week
Inverclyde	3.15
East Renfrewshire	3.25
Glasgow	3.96
Renfrewshire	4.07
East Dunbartonshire	4.85
West Dunbartonshire	6.50

16. It needs to be recognised that providing this service will change during 2025/26 with the move from analogue to digital expected to increase costs by c£0.13 million. We expect this would be a £1.15 p/w increase plus a one off £7.50 for the move to SIM card based services. The IJB will need to decide on a policy approach for future years i.e. do we change the rate for everyone at a fixed point in time or apply a change in rate as and when new units come online. This means the charge for 2025/26 could increase for inflation and the increased cost to deliver the service.
17. Options for an increase in community alarm charges for 2024/25:

Weekly Charge	Weekly Increase	% increase	Additional Income (full year)	Additional Income (3 months)
£4.00	£0.75	23%	£0.088m	£0.022m
£4.50	£1.25	38%	£0.146m	£0.036m
£4.75	£1.50	46%	£0.175m	£0.044m
£4.90	£1.65	51%	£0.193m	£0.048m
£5.00	£1.75	54%	£0.205m	£0.051m

18. The IGSLWG recommendation is the charge increases to £4.90 per week, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

19. The weekly charge for Bonnyton House residential care is currently £912.80 p/w, subject to the ability to pay and the annual income is c£0.5m. In addition to the in-year increase proposed below, we will revisit charging for future years as part of our work to reduce costs.

20. Within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde partnerships the current charges are shown below, to the nearest £, and we are in the mid-range, recognising we do not distinguish frail elderly and dementia.

HSCP	£ per week
Inverclyde	n/a
East Dunbartonshire	n/a
Glasgow – Frail Elderly	739
Renfrewshire – Frail Elderly	881
East Renfrewshire	913
Glasgow – Dementia	1,074
Renfrewshire – Dementia	1,093
West Dunbartonshire	1,277

21. For context the weekly rate for a non-local authority residential care home in East Renfrewshire ranges from c£1,200 to £1,500 at 2023/24 rates.

22. Options for an increase to Bonnyton House charges for 2024/25:

Weekly Charge	Weekly Increase	% increase	Additional Income (full year)	Additional Income (3 months)
£940	£27	3%	£0.015m	£0.003m
£960	£47	5%	£0.026m	£0.006m
£980	£67	7%	£0.037m	£0.009m
£1,000	£87	10%	£0.048m	£0.012m
£1,020	£107	12%	£0.059m	£0.014m

23. The IGSLWG recommendation is the charge increases to £960 per week, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

24. Based on the IGSLWG recommendation if we increased community alarms to £4.90 p/w and Bonnyton House to £960 per week this would generate c£0.054m not allowing for any attrition from either service or any increase in debt levels. This would also generate a further £0.165m in 2025/26.

25. The HSCP has a non-residential care charging policy in place to support these charges. This was last reviewed and agreed by the IJB at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. This will be reviewed again in November 2024.

## **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

26. The proposals from the increase to existing charges will generate additional income of £0.054m for 2024/25 and a further £0.165m in 2025/26.
27. The likely income level from the introduction of non-residential charging will continue to be assessed and will be included in the November report to the IJB and to ERC Cabinet, along with the proposed timetable for implementation, following the communication and engagement period.
28. Consideration needs to be given to the treatment of bad debt and any non-payment for services provided. Under the current arrangements the Chief Officer and Chief Financial Officer have the delegated authority to write off bad debt, although to date this has not been required at any material level.

## **CONSULTATION**

29. The Chief Financial Officer has consulted with our partners and will continue to work in partnership with colleagues to develop and implement the expansion of non-residential charging, recognising this was agreed as part of the budget process for 2024/25 and preparing for 2025/26.
30. The in-year changes will be clearly communicated and wider consultation with a range of stakeholders will be undertaken for the implementation of new non-residential charges.
31. Consultation and discussion will also take place with the Council's Money Advice and Rights and Debtors teams to support the consultation with those in receipt of services and to also ensure that future impact to workloads is fully considered.

## **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

32. The setting of fees and charges remains a responsibility of East Renfrewshire Council under the legislation.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS**

33. The equalities, fairness and rights impact assessment will be completed following the planned consultation and engagement events.
34. There are no direct implications in relation to staffing, property, legal, sustainability or IT as part of this paper. However, it should be noted that Council are supporting the HSCP with Invest to Save funding for a fixed term post to support the implementation of non-residential charging for services.
35. There is a significant risk to the ability of the HSCP to deliver required savings without these changes.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

36. The ISLWG have identified in-year increases to two charges to support the delivery of

required savings for 2024/25. The IJB will receive a further report in September that will set out the impacts and implementation process for non-residential charging along with the associated report to be considered by Cabinet for setting all charges for 2025/26.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

37. The Cabinet is asked to:

- (a) note this update on charging within the HSCP,
- (b) agree the proposed increase to existing charges for Community Alarms to £4.90 per week and Bonnyton House to £960 per week, effective from 1 January 2025, and
- (c) note the usual annual report in November / December will provide the detail on new charges as well as the usual approach to annual inflation.

## **REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT**

Lesley Bairden, Head of Finance and Resources (Chief Financial Officer)

[Lesley.Bairden@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.Bairden@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)

0141 451 0749

Chief Officer, IJB: Julie Murray

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet 14.12.2023 – Item 5. Summary of Departmental Charging Proposals for 2024/25

[https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/media/9805/Cabinet-Item-05-14-December-2023/pdf/Cabinet\\_Item\\_05\\_-\\_14\\_December\\_2023.pdf?m=1701424127080](https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/media/9805/Cabinet-Item-05-14-December-2023/pdf/Cabinet_Item_05_-_14_December_2023.pdf?m=1701424127080)