

**Have your say about plans to make changes to our  
Fair Contributions Policy 2018**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Introduction**

As a council with responsibility for social care, we must make sure that people who are eligible for social care have their needs met, within the financial resources available. At the same time, we must make sure that where customers meet the financial criteria to make a contribution towards the cost of their care, they do so in a way that meets current national regulations and guidance. We do this in a way which is equitable and fair and is clearly explained in policy statements.

Below are some frequently asked questions about the Fair Contributions Policy and this consultation.

**Q: When does the consultation close?**

A: The consultation closes at midnight on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019.

**Q: How can I give my views on the proposals?**

A: You can do this in a number of ways:

- Complete the online questionnaire available at <https://northamptonshire.citizenspace.com/bipm/faircontributionspolicy2019>
- Complete the Easy Read online questionnaire available at <https://northamptonshire.citizenspace.com/bipm/faircontributionspolicy2019er>
- Ask for a copy of the questionnaire in a different format by emailing [FairContribPolicy@nass.uk.net](mailto:FairContribPolicy@nass.uk.net) or calling 01604 365020
- Ask for an individual meeting where someone will come to your house, explain the proposals and note down your comments.
- Come to a public meeting at these places and times:
  - Riverside Road Resource Centre, Towcester – 4pm – 6pm on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019
  - Patrick Road Resource Centre, Corby – 3.30pm – 5.30pm on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019
  - Gladstone Road Resource Centre, Northampton – 3.30pm – 5.30pm on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- You can send your comments to us in writing by either emailing [consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:consult@northamptonshire.gov.uk) or writing to: Consultation, Equalities and Accessibility Team, Northamptonshire County Council, One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton NN1 1ED

**Q: How can I find out more information about the proposals?**

A: You can find out more information about the proposals by clicking on the links for the questionnaires or contacting us by phone or email using the details above

**Q: When will a decision be made on the proposed changes?**

A: The proposed changes will be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**Q: If these changes are agreed, when will they start applying to customers?**

A: If agreed, the new charges will be in place from April 2020.

**Q: Can you explain to me how this will affect my financial assessment?**

A: No, as this is a proposal only at this stage, we cannot explain how it will impact on your personal financial assessment. If any changes are agreed, customers will be written to individually to explain how any changes may affect them. We have shown some examples of how customers could be affected, depending on their individual circumstances and these are available in the questionnaires.

**Q: Will I still be able to request a personalised DRE assessment?**

A: Yes, if changes are agreed, you can request a personalised DRE assessment if you do not feel that the proposed single standard rate will be enough to meet your needs. To do this, you would need to provide an itemised list of expenditure and evidence such as receipts.

**Q: If these proposals are agreed, will I have to pay more towards my care?**

A: This depends on your individual circumstances. Some people may have to pay more for their care, some may have to pay less. The most your charge will increase by is £10.50 per week. The least is £0.50. If you are in a residential college, you will pay less.

**Q: If I have been in a residential college before April 2020, will the reduction in charge be backdated?**

A: No. If the change on residential college charges is agreed, it will only apply to customers from April 2020.