

Submission to Fairer Charging for Community Care Consultation by the Hackney Disability Backup Forum

The September 2011 meeting of the Disability Backup Forum agreed to make a submission along the general lines of the eloquent one made by one of our members, which is attached. She highlights the impact that such a sharp increase in charges will have on some recipients of social care.

We would like to express our concerns about the proposals and the impact that it may have on the lives of disabled people, in particular the 640 people who currently pay a charge, which we note is estimated by the Council will increase to 800 if the proposals in the consultation are implemented:

- We note that it is proposed to increase charges for care packages by 150% and that the maximum charge per week is proposed to increase from £105 to £250. This is a very sharp increase to take place at one time;
- It is not only those who live in the greatest poverty who are vulnerable and affected by disability or ill health and such a big increase in charges will affect them disproportionately;
- The cost of living is rising sharply. Many disabled people live on fixed incomes. Such a sharp increase in the costs of care packages, for those who have to pay charges, will increase the anxiety and frustration they experience in their daily struggle to lead a decent life;
- High level care needs require higher spending to sustain a healthy quality of life in all areas (e.g. special diet, high heating costs and high transport costs) and therefore a big increase in charges will affect them most;
- The DBU therefore regrets the scale of the proposed increase in charges and suggests that the size of the increase should be reconsidered and that every effort should be made to reduce their impact on disabled people in Hackney

Carol Davis
DBU Support