**Provider Sector Briefing:**

We want to draw to your attention that following the Adult Social Care consultation on proposed changes to the discretionary elements of its non-residential contribution policy the Council’s Executive on 3 June 2025 agreed the recommendation to implement this change.

As you are aware from previous briefings and for some of you direct engagement, the Council undertook a 12-week consultation on the proposed changes. The feedback from the consultation and engagement sessions was listened to and the recommendations made to the Executive were a change to the original proposal to remove the discretionary income buffer.

The recommendations made and agreed to were:

* To proceed with the implementation of the removal of the discretionary buffer in the calculation of non-residential financial assessments with the following adjustments:
* A phased implementation of the proposed discretionary buffer removal 50% in July 2025 and 50% in July 2026 for existing services users. This would provide those in receipt of care at the time the decision is made time to make adjustments to their expenditure, so they are more able to manage the financial increase.
* The commencement of a new financial assessment and welfare benefit and disability related expenditure review for all people currently in receipt of non-residential adult social care services.

This means that the phasing will be:

50% of the increase to the new charge from July 2025, but only after we have completed a new financial assessment, welfare benefit check and disability related expenditure review with the individual. The full new charge will then begin from July 2026.

This is separate to any changes for benefit increases and change to the price of their services which increase annually each April.

If the NHS funds part of their care package these changes will only relate to the amount of money that the council pays towards their package of care.

This change will impact on those people currently in receipt of community based (non-residential) Adult Social Care Services. For new entrants there will be no phasing in the removal of the buffer – their income after the contribution towards their charge has been calculated will be in line with the national minimum income guarantee.

The implementation process includes a new financial assessment, welfare benefit and disability related expenditure review for each person in receipt of non-residential services. This will ensure any new charge is affordable in line with nationalguidelines before any change to the contribution towards the cost of their care is made.

We want you to be aware of the implementation in case it is raised directly with you or your staff working with service users. The people who raise it may be anxious and/or concerned or simply ask what the letter is saying. We want to try to minimise their anxiety in as far as we can and so we asking if a consistent message can be given if it is raised.

We sent the be a letter to all people in receipt of community care (non-residential services) between 13-16th of June. It sets out the decision made by the Executive and the next steps. The letter was sent as a normal letter but for those people with a learning disability there was a letter in an easy read format was also sent.

They do not need to do anything; we will contact them to arrange their new financial assessment within the next six months.

The key messages are which if asked your staff could reiterate:

* **No-one’s charge will change until they have had their new financial assessment, welfare benefit and disability related expenditure review.**
* We need to complete a new financial assessment for them, including taking into account any Disability Related Expenditure, and to ensure they are receiving all the welfare benefits from the Government that they or their household are entitled to. We can help them to claim these.
* The exact amount of their contribution will be determined once the new financial assessment, welfare benefit check and disability related expenditure review is completed and will reflect each individuals care needs, the cost of those needs and their personal financial circumstances.
* These new assessments will ensure any contribution they need to make towards the cost of their care is based on their most up to date finances. No change will happen if the decision is made to implement this change their new financial assessment and welfare benefit check has been completed and they have been notified of the outcome.

**What will happen next?**

The letter was sent between 13 -16/06/2025.

No-one needs to do anything; we will contact them to arrange their new financial assessment within the next six months.

We have set up a specific email and contact number for queries.

cpcharging.implementation@bradford.gov.uk

Contact Number 01274 436464

There is also an implementation webpage which has some more information.

[**www.bradford.gov.uk/adult-social-care/paying-for-support/adult-social-care-financial-contribution-towards-the-cost-of-your-care-and-support-services/**](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/adult-social-care/paying-for-support/adult-social-care-financial-contribution-towards-the-cost-of-your-care-and-support-services/)

All of these details are included in the letter.

**Requests to reduce a care package to reduce a person’s contribution.**

Bradford Council will support people to ensure that the person in receipt of care services is able to afford them, in line with their income and national guidance. Depending on their level of services and their individual financial assessment, reducing services may not result in a reduced charge. This is because the charge is a contribution towards the cost of the services based on affordability for the individual.

Examples:

1. For a person who has a maximum assessed contribution of £90 per week and is paying charges of £90 per week, where the cost of service is £202.24 per week for 8 hours of care at £25.28 per hour, and they decide to reduce their hours to 4 hours per week, their charge will not change. This is because their maximum assessed contribution is still less than the cost of the reduced service. The charge would only reduce if the cost of the service was less than the maximum contribution.
2. The charge for a person who has a maximum assessed contribution of £90 per week and is paying £90 per week, where the cost of service is £101.12 per week for 4 hours of care at £25.28 per hour, who decides to reduce to 3 hours would reduce to £75.84 per week. This is because the cost of the service is less than their maximum contribution. Bradford Council does not charge more than the cost of the service.

The only exception to these examples is when someone is on holiday or in hospital for a period of time. The person will not be expected to pay their contribution these times as their charges are based on actual service delivered.