

DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

DATE OF DECISION 28 February 2017

DATE DECISION PUBLISHED 8 March 2017

DATE DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE and implemented,
unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of
the Gwynedd Council Constitution. **15 March 2017**

Councillor W Gareth Roberts

SUBJECT

To approve a Standard Charge of **£581.28** for 2017-18.

DECISION

To authorise as noted in the Officer Report

REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED

Please see the Officer Report

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

None

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Consultation with
Gwynedd Council Statutory Officers

The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report

DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET – OFFICER REPORT

Name and title of Cabinet Member/s:	Councillor Gareth Roberts
Name and title of Report Author :	Dewi Owen Jones Senior Accountant
Date of Decision :	28-02-2017
Signature of Cabinet Member/s :	

Subject : To approve a Standard Charge of **£581.28** for 2017-18.

Recommendation for the Decision :

To approve a Standard Charge of **£581.28** for 2017-18.

Reason why Decision is needed :

Section 59 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, allows the Council to impose a charge for the provision of care and support, including residential care. The Charging Policy for Adult Care and Support Services, proposing that the Council uses its discretion under the Act and impose a charge for residential care unless the resident's financial circumstances permit the Council to contribute towards the cost of their care, was approved by the Cabinet on 17th January, 2017. The Code of Practice (Part 4 and 5) of the Act states in the event that the Council imposes a charge, that charge must be reasonable, and no higher than the actual cost to the authority of providing that care.

The purpose of this report is to set a standard charge for care provided within the Council's residential homes during the financial year 2017-18, and in accordance with the Act.

Reason and justification behind the Decision :

The Standard Charge is based on an estimate of the cost per bed per week.

The table below shows an estimate of the full cost of the Council's residential homes for 2017-18.

	£
Direct cost	8,133,350
Apportionment of central costs	241,470
Apportionment of capital costs	<u>210,980</u>
	8,585,800
less Day Services	<u>-124,490</u>
	<u>8,461,310</u>

It is foreseen that there will be 315 registered beds available in 2017-18. The current average occupancy rate is 89.5% (compared to 88.2% that was used to calculate the Standard Charge for 2016-17).

The estimated effect of price inflation on the standard charge is a £3.03 increase but the estimated effect of the rise in the occupancy rate is a decrease of £8.73.

A Standard Charge may be set by individual home, by different services or on average over all homes. By now, some Council run homes provide specialised services for individuals with memory impairment (EMI) and a Standard Charge could be set separately for these.

The table below shows the cost per bed per week by home on the basis of an occupancy rate of 88.2%) and on the basis of an occupancy rate of 89.5%). The average cost is £584.31 and £575.58 respectively.

Home	Registration (EMI) 2017-18	Cost per bed per week (occupancy rate 88.2%) £	Cost per bed per week (occupancy rate 89.5%) £
Plas Maesincla	23(23)	718.67	707.94
Plas Ogwen	27	567.09	535.68
Plas Pengwaith	32	474.74	467.65
Plas Gwilym	27	598.97	590.03
Plas Hedd	28	561.01	552.63
Plas Hafan	32	484.15	476.93
Plas y Don	31	517.29	509.57
Hafod Mawddach	25	618.47	609.24
Bryn Blodau	41(8)	581.94	573.26

Cefn 'Rodyn	21	729.54	718.65
Llys Cadfan	28(8)	677.58	667.47
Average	315(39)	584.31	575.58

If the Standard Charge were set on a per home basis (see above table), some individuals would face a very substantial increase in their weekly charges. If it were set by service type, some individuals in receipt of EMI services would face a weekly charge of up to £718.67 (on the basis of the true cost of Plas Maesincla). It is not, however, believed that either of these options would be fair to the individuals so affected.

It is therefore proposed that one Standard Charge be set on the basis of the average cost for all homes and that the latest trend in occupancy is reflected in the calculation. As the 2016-17 charge (£581.28) is within the range from £584.31(88.2%) to £575.58 (89.5%), ***it is recommended that the Standard Charge remains set at £581.28 for 2017-18.***

Declarations of personal interest by any Cabinet Member consulted with and any relevant dispensations approved by the Standards Committee

Not relevant

Any consultations undertaken prior to making the decision:

Chief Executive –

As the Head of Finance confirms, the Cabinet Member has very little flexibility in this matter. I do not have anything to add to the recommendation.

Head of Finance –

I support the recommendation to approve continuance of the standard charge at £581.28 again for 2017/18 (no change). The Cabinet Member's options in this matter are limited, as the Council must raise a standard charge reflecting the average cost. Since last year, as the notice explains, the costs have increased with inflation, but as the number of residents has also increased, the level of charge can be kept constant.

Monitoring Officer –

This report has received input from the Legal Service. No comments regarding propriety.

Local Member/s –

Not relevant