



WLGA • CLILC

# **Charging for non residential services.**

## **A Welsh Assembly Initiative. 2009-2011**

**Beverlea Frowen**

**Director, Social Services and Health**

*5<sup>th</sup> October 2010. UKHCA Conference*



# Summary of Key themes today

*Thank you for inviting the WLGA to share a perspective on the changes to non residential charging policy.*

I am going to talk about the following three key themes:

- **How did we get to this policy?**
- **Implementation**
- **Beyond April 2011**



# How did we get here?

- 2008 Research gave an evidence base to variation in practice across Wales. This showed there was an unacceptable variation in terms of:
  - Which services councils charged for
  - The amount councils were charging
  - The process by which assessments were undertaken

Examples – hourly home care rate £5.60 to £15.32  
Some applying a maximum charge and others not



# Drivers for change

Some of the main drivers for change included:

- Consistent lobbying for 'fairer system' post code lottery
- Changes in England to charging schemes- a Welsh approach and response required
- Growing pressure to 'standardise' councils – *the creeping erosion of localism!*
- 'One Wales' commitment by current coalition



WLGA • CLIC

## A first Steps package

Following consultation and working groups, WAG introduced the changes and invited local government and other stakeholders to develop and implementation process for application of new regime by April 2011.

*....With some grave concerns, local councils accept the changes proposed by WAG but remain sceptical that this is the best way of using public money....*



# The three components

*Changes will happen in three main areas with the aim by WAG to reduce the range of variation and to make the application of the assessment process fairer.*

1. Maximum charge of £50. ( 21 affected)
2. Compulsory disregard for 2 allowances (CAA and SDA) when assessing ability to pay ( all affected)
3. Free transport to day centres ( 12 affected)



## Implementation. 2009-2010

Wide stakeholder reference group which has agreed:

- July 2009 as the baseline for modelling the gap between current practice and new regime (*and costs*)
- Draft regulations and new processes for complaints
- Refinement of funding value to transfer into RSG for April 2011

**Current estimates - £12million is required!**

**Hazardous – Health Warning!!!!!!**



## Unsolved mysteries....

*The world has changed considerably since this new policy was first developed and agreed.*

- Is this the right thing to be doing now?
- How will this relate to the outcome of the Independent Commission that the Westminster Govt has established and is due to report in June 2011?
- What effect will this have on take up of care and referrals to council?
- Who will really benefit and loose?
- Will the transfer of funds be enough?



# 2011 and beyond

This change of policy will happen.

- Councils will co operate
- Councils and WLGA will continue to lobby for a fairer system to fund social care and an end to piecemeal initiatives that dodge the fundamental problem ...

**'how to fund social care and what should social care do and for whom?'**

- Councils will monitor the situation carefully.....83% of service users receive care provided in non residential settings but overall numbers are decreasing- more to less



## A final word.....

As councils move progressively to commissioners of care to enable more people to have greater independence and choice, community engagement and local service delivery will remain the vital ingredient to achieve people centred care ... but

how do we balance local decision making and flexibility with the increasing desire to standardise and remove the inconsistencies of human engagement that give us the very essence to achieve that aim?



WLGA • CLILC

***Best Wishes* for the rest of the day.**

***Thank you* for the contribution you  
make to people's lives in our  
communities.**

**Beverlea.Frowen@wlga.gov.uk**