

# **Adult Social Care Travel Assistance Policy Consultation**

## **July 2017**

### **What does the policy say?**

The policy has these main principles:

- Those who can travel to a social care activity on their own, or with the help of family, friends or care givers, should do so
- The Council will offer training and support, where appropriate, to help individuals to travel on their own to social care activities
- For those without other means of travel, travel assistance will be provided to the nearest social care activity which meets the individual's assessed needs
- Council-funded transport will only be provided to meet an assessed need
- Travel assistance will not be provided if an individual has access to other means of travel, even if they choose not to use them
- Those living in residential care homes will not receive assistance from the Council with travel to social care activities as this should be provided by the residential care home
- Charges will be applied for all travel to social care activities arranged or provided by the Council, (see below for details of charges)

### **Charging Changes**

The Council is trying to introduce fairness in our approach to charging, so that those who make more trips pay more. Other local authorities have increased their charges considerably over recent years.

The Council will expect individuals to make a contribution towards the cost of their transport and in order to continue to make this service sustainable the Council are introducing new daily charges at a minimal level as a contribution towards this service.

The proposal is to increase the daily charge to:

- £4 for individuals who make one return journey per day to a local social care activity
- £5 for individuals who make a return journey to a main day centre along with journeys to access activities at other locations during the course of a day

The proposed new travel charges will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### **Tell us what you think**

The following people are invited to comment on the proposed policy:

- Individuals attending social care, and/or their representatives, who receive travel assistance from the Council

- Individuals attending social care, and/or their representatives, who do not receive travel assistance from the Council
- Social care providers
- Representatives of the Learning Disabilities Partnership Forum
- Third sector partners
- Transport Operators
- Other

### **When will the proposed policy be introduced?**

It is anticipated that the introduction of the new policy with effect from 1 April 2018. From this date, all new applicants for travel assistance will be assessed with regard to the new policy. The travel needs of individuals already in receipt of travel assistance will be assessed, with regard to the new policy, at their annual review.

### **What might this mean for me?**

An individual who requests assistance with travel to social care for the first time will be assessed under the new policy, with the new charges being applied.

An individual who is already receiving assistance with travel to social care will be assessed under the new policy with the new charges being applied. The daily charges for this travel assistance will be increased based on the outcome of the review and reflect the number of journeys made during the course of the day.

All individuals requesting assistance with travel to social care activities can have confidence that there is a single agreed document that sets out the way the Council considers all requests, so that they are clear about the process we will go through in making a decision.