



COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES – FEES AND CHARGES 2026/27

Report by Chief Officer Partnership Services and Community Care

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to seek approval for the setting of charges for Comhairle Community Care Services delegated to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) for the financial year 2026/27.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Report sets out the framework of charges for 2026/27 for Community Care services, in the context of COSLA guidance on charging for social work services. Personal care delivered to people, regardless of age, has been delivered free of charge since 1 April 2019. People who receive services as a consequence of an Order under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, and other compulsory measures, are similarly exempt from charges. Charges for food provided in day centres and by care homes for other service users and those in supported accommodation are payable by all recipients.
- 2.2 The Comhairle continues to follow COSLA Guidance on charges. The charges relating to residential services set out in this Report are the maximum charge for each service, and do not translate into the amount that all individuals will pay towards their care. The estimated income anticipated to be received is included in the revenue projections of the IJB budget. The duty for setting the associated fees and charges remains a decision of the Comhairle.
- 2.3 The charges for residential care and HWEC were re-baselined in 2024/25 to represent full cost recovery at the time, and a 5% inflationary uplift has been applied in subsequent years. The Comhairle will continue to follow COSLA Guidance on charges. The Charging for Residential Accommodation Guidance (CRAG) states that where a person is provided with accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act, Section 22 of that Act provides for them to be charged for the accommodation. Section 22 requires local authorities to set the standard rate for local authority homes at an amount equivalent to the full cost to the authority of providing the accommodation

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle approve the fees and charges for 2026/27 as follows:**
 - (a) **the standard weekly charge for Comhairle care homes for the elderly increase from £2,008 to £2,108 per individual room per week;**
 - (b) **the standard weekly charge for Housing with Extra Care (HWEC) at Bremner Court, Goathill, Stornoway increase from £1,163 to £1,221 per individual flat per week;**
 - (c) **the weekly charge for services relating to HWEC based on service user choice, increase by 5% to: £3.15 for breakfast, £8.40 for lunch and £3.15 for dinner; £10.50 per load of laundry washing and £5.25 per half load; and, £21.00 for a deep clean;**



- (d) the standard weekly charge for Ardseileach Care Home be increased from £2,781 to £2,920 per individual room per week;
- (e) the 2025/26 fee for residential assessment and respite (currently £184.60 per week) be increased by the percentage increase in pension credit (4.8%) to £193.46 per week;
- (f) the rates for the independent care homes for 2026/27 will be:
 - Bethesda Care Home £1,391 per bed per week for 28 local authority-commissioned beds, with financial provision retained for Free Personal Nursing Care payments, when legally applicable, for the Home's operation of 2 private beds.
 - Leverburgh Home of Rest £1,268 per bed per week for 14 local authority-commissioned beds with no financial provision retained for Free Personal Care payments for the Home's operation of 1 private bed.
- (g) the room hire and other facilities related charges be increased by 5%;
- (h) the hourly rate for direct payments in 2025/26 of £19.34 for one-to-one personal care, £39.72 and £79.45 for the half-day to full-day rate for Day Care equivalent for adults with learning disabilities be uplifted by the Scottish Government's Adult Social Care Pay Uplift for Personal Assistants for 2026/27 when the rates are announced.

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IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	For charges, the 5% increase in line with anticipated pay and cost of living inflation has been applied. Charging is linked to external factors such as Department of Work and Pensions and rates set nationally.
Legal	The legal basis for charging is based on COSLA charging guidance and the local charging policy decisions approved by the Comhairle. The setting of the charge of the externally commissioned residential and nursing care has been agreed by the Integration Joint Board and the external providers
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	The ongoing challenge of the budgeted deficit was the trigger for introduction of full cost recovery charging in 2024/25. The requirement to agree a charge early in the financial year is important to enable residents and their representatives to manage their financial affairs, the proposed rate is the payment agreed by the Integration Joint Board.
Equalities/Child Rights	Initial Impact Assessment indicated no Equalities implications. The ability to pay continues to be the approach to financial assessment applying the national policy and guidance when undertaking such matters.
Corporate Strategy	Provision of statutory services.
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	None

PROPOSED CHARGES 2026/27

Comhairle Care Homes

5.1 Fees and Charges for Comhairle Care Homes in 2025/26 are as follows:

Comhairle Community Care Services	2025/26	2026/27
Standard weekly charge for Comhairle care homes	£2,008 per individual per week	£2,108 per individual per week
Housing with Extra Care (HWEC) at Bremner Court	£1,163 per flat per week	£1,221 per flat per week
Ardseileach Care Home	£2,781 per individual room per week	£2,920 per individual room per week

5.2 These charges for residential care and HWEC were re-baselined in 2024/25 to represent full cost recovery at the time, and a 5% inflationary uplift has been applied in subsequent years. The Comhairle will continue to follow COSLA Guidance on charges. The Charging for Residential Accommodation



Guidance (CRAG) states that where a person is provided with accommodation under Part III of the National Assistance Act, Section 22 of that Act provides for them to be charged for the accommodation. Section 22 requires local authorities to set the standard rate for local authority homes at an amount equivalent to the full cost to the authority of providing the accommodation.

- 5.3 Personal care delivered to people regardless of age has been delivered free of charge since 1 April 2019. People who receive services as a consequence of an Order under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, and other compulsory measures, are similarly exempt from charges. People assessed as requiring a service can choose to have their ability to pay assessed, and the total of all charges will thereafter be restricted to the assessed threshold. They also have the option to pay the full charge without assessment.
- 5.4 The charges set out in this Report are the maximum charge for each service, and do not translate into the amount that all individuals will pay towards their care.
- 5.5 Service users assessed as liable to fund the cost of their care qualify for Free Personal Care Allowance. For 2025/26 these rates were £254.60 per week for residential care and £369.15 per week for nursing care and these will be increased when the new rates are announced.
- 5.6 The 2025/26 fee for residential assessment and respite (currently £184.60 per week) be increased by the percentage increase in pension credit (4.8%) to £193.46 per week.
- 5.7 The lower capital limit in residential care charging for 2025/26 was £22,000 and the upper capital limit was £35,500. These limits are set in line with guidance provided by the Scottish Government and will be updated when the new limits are announced.
- 5.8 The Personal Expenses Allowance (PEA) was £35.90 per week in 2025/26 and is set in line with the guidance provided by the Scottish Government. The allowance will be updated when the new limits are announced. This is the weekly amount that care home residents must be allowed to retain.
- 5.9 The room hire and other facilities related charges be increased by 5%.
- 5.10 The charges for services at HWEC increase by 5% to: £3.15 for breakfast, £8.40 for lunch and £3.15 for dinner; £10.50 per load of laundry washing and £5.25 per half load; and, £21.00 for a deep clean, if and when required.

Charges – Independent Care Home Providers

- 5.11 The rates for the independent care homes for 2026/27 are

Bethesda Care Home	£1,391
Leverburgh Home of Rest	£1,268



Direct Payments

- 5.12 The Comhairle offers several Direct Payment options for assessed needs that fall within the Eligibility Criteria for Community Care services. The table below states the Direct Payment rates for 2025/26 and these rates will be updated when the uplifts are announced by the Scottish Government.

Direct Payments	2025/26 £
One-to-One (Personal Care and Complex Needs)	19.34
Day Care equivalent for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Half-day)	39.72
Day Care equivalent for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Full-day)	79.45
Respite/Short Break	£814.40

Impact of Charges

- 5.13 Following confirmation of agreed charges, bespoke communication will be managed with service users and their legal representatives as appropriate. Public information will be issued detailing all service charges for 2026/27. Officers within the Department will continue to ensure that all service users are encouraged to maximise their benefits entitlements through collaborative working with the Western Isles Citizens Advice Service and the Comhairle/Macmillan Benefit Advisers.

