
Fairer Contributions Policy

- Consultation Response -

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed increases to the amount of money that people are required to contribute toward the cost of their care. We would like to express our concern that this will disproportionately affect very vulnerable people who are already experiencing financial pressures in other ways. With current pressures on public funds people receiving care and support are already being asked to buy additional services for themselves, for example alarm services and equipment. These people are also likely to be experiencing real term decreases in benefits and pensions. We believe that these people are likely to also be affected by all three of the proposed increases and so bear a significant and disproportionate increased financial burden.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is acutely concerned about the compounding effect of these changes. The combined impact will undoubtedly add to the risk that people will not seek help at an early stage, when a little help could have helped their resilience and so prevented a crisis from occurring. People already defer the point of seeking help precisely due to the costs they will have to pay; these increases will exacerbate this. Opportunities to prevent crises will be lost.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough understands the proposal for payment by Direct Debit but is of the opinion that this should be an offer, with a discount as an incentive, not the default position. People should have choice about their method of payment.

Sandie Smith
CEO
Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
2 February 2018