

All Committee meetings were cancelled with effect from 23rd March, 2020 due to the COVID-19 emergency.

The recommendations in this report were approved by an Executive Director of the Council, acting under delegated authority in terms of paragraph 2.1.1 of the Council's List of Officer Powers

Approved by the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) and Director of Health and Social Care – 4th May, 2020

Annual Uplift – Meals on Wheels

Report by: Nicky Connor, Director of Health and Social Care

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

The report seeks to set out temporary variations to the annual uplift to manage the financial consequences relating to the current emergency brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic

Recommendation(s)

The committee is asked to approve that the increase in charges to Meals on wheels be paused for a period of 12 weeks due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Resource Implications

To pause the meals on wheel uplift will have approximately £12500 implication, which will be monitored by the Finance Service.

Legal & Risk Implications

There is a risk that at this time of uncertainty, more people who are unable to attend lunch clubs etc and who are required to stay at home would be charged a higher rate when they are at their most vulnerable.

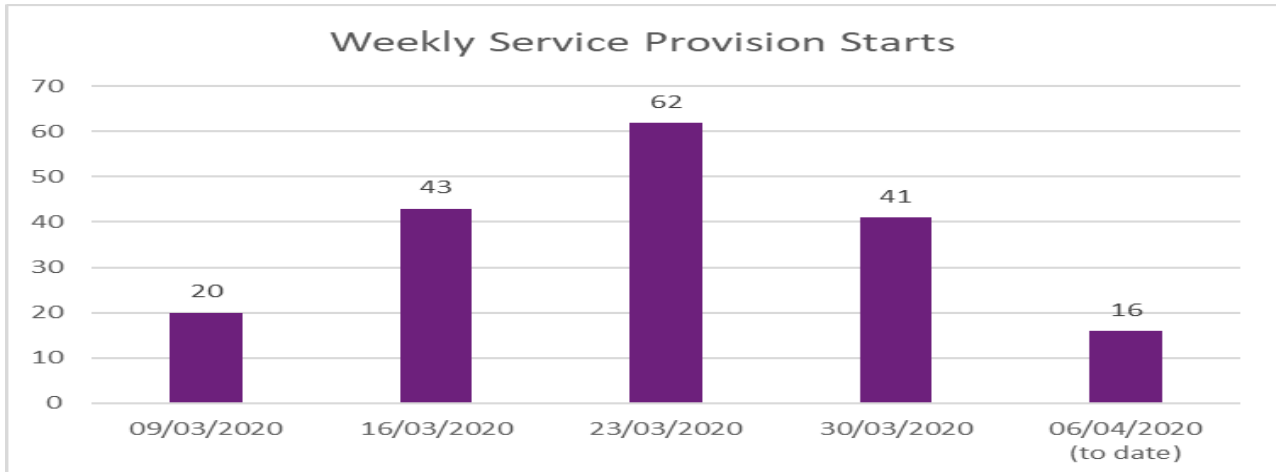
Impact Assessment

There is no requirement for an impact assessment in respect of this report

Consultation

1.0 Background

1.1 Since the Covid-19 virus outbreak there has been a significant increase in the number of people accessing meals on wheels as more older people have been following Government advice and staying at home. The table below gives an understanding of the increase over the last few weeks.



1.2 To ensure that particularly older people remain at home the Health and Social Care Partnership would recommend that we pause the increase detailed in Option 2 below for a period of 12 weeks, which will be reviewed at week 10 to consider the position at that time.

1.3 The period for avoidance of doubt would be from 1st April – 24th June 2020

2.0 Issues and Options

2.1 The table below indicates the suggested increase, this was to be presented to the Policy and Co-ordination Meeting in March 20 which was cancelled, subsequently the charge was approved under delegated powers.

Meals on Wheels for 1 course only (soup)	£0.05	4.2%	£1.20	£1.25	1 April 2020
Meals on Wheels for 2 courses	£0.25	5.6%	£4.50	£4.75	1 April 2020
Meals on Wheels for 3 courses	£0.25	4.3%	£5.75	£6.00	1 April 2020

2.2 The reason to pause the implementation of the increase in charges is detailed below:

- To increase the charge to meals on wheels would mean that people who pay by direct debit would require a new invoice and would then need to contact their bank to change the weekly amount. Currently, many people receiving meals on wheels are over 70, or shielding which would mean for many a trip to the bank as they do not have access to online services. There would also be a significant workload to produce over 800 invoices.
- To continue with the current payment would ensure income continues without any difficulty.

- There are also a number of people who pay their invoices via paypoint or post office, therefore a delay in payment should not be seen as non-payment of invoice and debit recovery enforced.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 This report recommends a pause on the increase of meals on wheels which is a change from the agreed position taken under delegated powers, the reason for this is detailed above.

List of Appendices

1. Social Work Service - Charges for Services 2020-21

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Social Work Service - Charges for Services 2020-21

	Price Increase	Percentage Increase	2018-19 per week	2019-20 per week	Effective from
Respite Care Adults aged 18 to 24 years (note 1)	£0.60	0.9%	£64.50	£65.10	6 April 2020
Respite Care Adults aged 25 to 64 years (note 1)	£0.85	1.1%	£79.70	£80.55	6 April 2020
Respite Care Older People (65+) (note 1)	£4.05	4.0%	£101.25	£105.30	6 April 2020
Service Charge – Accommodation Services (note 2)	£1.25	5.4%	£23.35	£24.50	6 April 2020
Local Authority Residential Care Home	£30.00	2.9%	£1052.00	£1082.00	1 April 2020
Meals on Wheels for 1 course only (soup)	£0.05	4.2%	£1.20	£1.25	1 April 2020
Meals on Wheels for 2 courses	£0.25	5.6%	£4.50	£4.75	1 April 2020
Meals on Wheels for 3 courses	£0.25	4.3%	£5.75	£6.00	1 April 2020
Community Alarms (note 3)	£0.00	0.0%	£2.80	£2.80	1 April 2020
Day Centre Rate	£0.25	5.6%	£4.50	£4.75	1 April 2020

Notes:

- 1) Respite Care charges are based on benefit rates set by the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) applicable from 6 April 2020.
- 2) The Service Charge is based on a calculation from single room rates set by the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) which are applicable from 6 April 2020.
- 3) Community alarms charge is proposed as no increase due to a 24.5% increase in financial year 2019/20.