

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



**COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

**SUSPENSION OF CONTRIBUTIONS - ADULT AND OLDER PEOPLE DAY SERVICES**

**REPORT BY HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY**

**A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek agreement from the Council Executive to suspend contribution payments for service users who have chosen not to attend adult or older people day services during the current Tier 4 period.

**B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended the Council Executive:

1. Notes that attendance at day centre is permitted under the current Covid-19 restrictions and that centres in West Lothian remain open for individuals who wish to attend;
2. Approves the temporary suspension of contribution payments from the day of last attendance to the date of return for the individuals who are electing not to attend due to Covid-19 concerns.

**C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	<p>Relevant legislation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968</li><li>• Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002</li><li>• Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003</li><li>• Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013</li><li>• The National Assistance (Sums for Personal Requirements) (Scotland) Regulations 2018</li><li>• COSLA National Strategy and Guidance – Charges applying to Non-residential Social Care Services 2019/20</li></ul>
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None.

<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	Effective prioritisation of resources is essential to the targets contained in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.
<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	Impact on income due to reduced contribution level. This impact is included in the mobilisation plan to Scottish Government.
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	None
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	None

## D.1 TERMS OF REPORT

### Background

Day services are provided for adults and older people in a range of settings across West Lothian. These are a mix of both Council and commissioned services.

The council, at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 agreed the budget for the four year period 2019/20 to 2022/23. The revenue budget report noted that the council faced a budget gap of £51.1 million for the five year period, and as part of the budget reduction measures additional net income of £981,000 was agreed from the contributions policy for adult non-residential social care services.

Day care is a chargeable service within the Contributions Policy for adult non- residential social care, with any contribution based on an individual's ability to pay.

Mainland Scotland entered Tier 4 lockdown at midnight on 4 January 2021 with a legal requirement forbidding anyone from leaving their home except for essential purposes. Examples of reasonable excuses to go out were provided in Scottish Government guidance and included accessing day centre provision.

This position was confirmed in correspondence from Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport on 15 January 2021 noting that day centres can continue to operate where they are essential for people's wellbeing i.e. where participants or carers health (including their mental health) and wellbeing would be significantly impacted by non-attendance.

In line with the national guidance West Lothian day centres have remained open during this period however an increasing number of individuals are electing not to attend. This is currently approximately 25% of attendees. There are a range of associated reasons related to concerns about exposure to Covid-19.

Day centres have a range of measures in place to ensure services can be delivered in a safe manner, fully compliant with current guidance. This has been discussed with service users and their families enabling arrangements to be progressed as people wish to attend. Day centre provision is recognised as an important source of support to both service users and their families, impacting upon social isolation and carer stress.

However, it is clear that some people do not wish to access available services due to the unique circumstances of the pandemic.

The individuals who have elected not to attend are contacted on a regular basis by the day services to ensure they are managing appropriately. This includes discussions with their families, carers or guardians.

To date limited issues have arisen due to the majority of people living at home with family. Where support has been offered this usually takes the form of telephone support or a home visit where necessary. The level of support offered is not considered to be a direct comparator to allocated day centre provision and it is therefore not proposed that service users would be charged for this keeping in touch service.

It is recommended that service users are asked to contribute to their care costs in line with their financial assessment up to last day of their centre attendance, and contributions are then suspended until they resume attendance.

The costs related to loss of contributions income are included in the mobilisation plan return to the Scottish Government. The extension of reduced contributions for day care to March (or into the start of 2021/22) will not cause a budget pressure due to the additional funding received.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

As a result of current tier 4 requirements, the Council Executive is asked to agree the recommendation that contribution payments are suspended for individuals who have decided not to attend day centres from last day attendance, until they resume attendance.

## **F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): stay at home guidance – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): day services for adults - letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport - 15 January 2021

**Appendices**                None

**Contact Person:**        Robin Allen, Senior Manager, Adult Services  
01506 281851

**JO MACPHERSON**  
**HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY/ CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER**  
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