

From: sda <sda@sdail.org>

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2023 11:52 AM

To: Timbrell, Julie <Julie.Timbrell@southwark.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Invite SDA re Care Charges @ Health & Social Care Scrutiny Commission meeting 2 Feb

Hello Julie

Many thanks for contacting us about this issue.

As an organisation we are opposed to any charges for services which enable Deaf and Disabled People to have the quality of opportunity to lead an independent and fulfilling life.

Notwithstanding this policy we have some comments which we hope will alleviate some of the financial burden of this tax on Disabled People.

We appreciate that a lot of work was carried out by the Council on Fairer Charging back in 2019 which was signed off by the cabinet days before the Covid pandemic struck in March 2020.

Since then there has been a significant increase in the cost of living which has disproportionately affected the socioeconomic standing of Disabled People, as confirmed in the Council's own Equalities and Diversity Impact statements.

The biggest factor affecting Disabled People regards expenditure is the increase in heating costs as many are at home all day and their low mobility means they are significantly affected by the cold.

Many of the financial assessments carried out to determine how much an individual is expected to pay would have been carried out before the impact of increased gas and electricity prices were realised which now leaves people's budgets under enormous pressure.

In light of this we would request that a minimum flat rate of Disability Related Expenditure be increased from £20 to £80 per week and similarly the current 25% added to the Minimum Income Guarantee be increased to 50% when calculating someone's liability to pay.

I'll see you on 2nd February, this email may be circulated to committee members.

Many thanks

David Stock

SDA CEO

SDA - Southwark Disablement Association,
Cornerstone Studios, 1 Addington Square, SE5 7JZ.
www.sdail.org