

	Current Situation	Welsh Government's New Guidelines	Recommendation
Attendance Allowance/Care Element of the Disability Living Allowance	In the current policy, the difference between the middle and higher rate (namely the element payable for night-time care) of these benefits is disregarded in non-residential care assessments.	The new Act allows local authorities to use discretion.	Adopt the new guidelines in accordance with the Personal Independent Payment (PIP) (PIP does not include the night-time care element) and not disregard it in non-residential assessment from now on. The purpose of the Attendance Allowance/Care Element of the Disability Living Allowance is to assist people to purchase care.
Flat-rate Charges	Charge a fee for the Telecare service for category 3 and 4 clients only It has not been usual to charge a fee for category 1 and 2 clients.	Flat-rate fees are allowed under the Act for low level and low cost care and support. It is also allowed as a way of charging a fee for preventative services and support.	Replace the old policy which categorised clients and adopt a procedure where the Telecare service (basic package) is identified as preventative services and consequently it will have a flat-rate fee. Everyone receiving it will be expected to pay the standard fee without consideration of their financial means or the maximum weekly payment. It should be noted that separate work is in the pipeline to ensure that the fees set reflect the actual cost of providing services. Charge a flat-rate fee for providing and installing minor equipment (handrails etc.)
Minimum Non-residential Care Income	The current Policy provides a higher Minimum Income Amount for service users who are under pension age in non-residential financial assessments, rather than a Minimum Income Amount which has been calculated using their actual right to Income Support and Employment and Support Allowance.	The new Act allows local authorities to use discretion.	Set Minimum Income Amount which has been calculated using their actual entitlement to Income Support and Employment and Support Allowance. Generally, the Minimum Income Amount for working-age service users compared with the one for pension age is lower. This is as a result of the fact that their basic right to benefits is lower. E.g. A pensioner has a Minimum Income Amount of £225.62 (£155.60 + 45%). Working-age people have a Minimum Income Amount of £148.12 (£102.15 + 45%). Service users must have this amount of income remaining before we can charge a fee for services. Where individuals can claim additional premium payments, the Minimum Income Amount is higher.
Savings Pension Credit	In the current policy, Savings Pension Credit is disregarded in full in non-residential assessments.	The new Act allows local authorities to use discretion.	Adopt the new guidelines and disregard it in part only in non-residential assessments, reconciling with the procedure for residential from now on. (namely disregarding £5.75 for individuals and £8.60 per couple).
Adult Placement Scheme	The current policy does not include charging for these services.	The new Act allows local authorities to use discretion.	Assessing service users and charging for these services.

Appendix A

<p>Deferred Payments</p>	<p>Place a charge on houses via the Land Registry</p>	<p>It is a requirement to have contracts for Deferred Payments. The requirements and guidelines regarding deferred payments have been outlined in Appendix D of the Welsh Government Code of Practice.</p>	<p>Charge interest on all deferred payments contracts on the highest rate allowed in the regulations. This is 0.15% higher than the 'relevant rate'. The relevant rate is the 'market gilt rate' which is published in the most recent report by the Office for Budget Responsibility. The relevant rate will be updated every six months on 1 January and 1 July. It is currently 2.15%. Interest will be payable from the first day of the contract on all the amounts payable, including any unpaid interest or fees accumulated during the period of the contract. Interest will cease to accumulate when the debt will have been paid in full.</p> <p>Charge administration fees for establishing a deferred payments contract. This will pay for the administrative, legal and pricing costs which are created during the setting-up of the contract. Further fees will be charged during the lifetime of the contracts if re-pricing is necessary.</p> <p>Administration fee – to be determined</p>
<p>Holiday Period</p>	<p>Gwynedd Council has been allowing unpaid 'holiday period' for up to three weeks for clients who receive care in residential and nursing homes.</p>	<p>The new Act allows local authorities to use discretion.</p>	<p>As this was a practice under the old policy only, it is intended to consult to not include it in the new Charging Policy.</p>