

# North Lanarkshire Council Report

## Adult Care and Social Work Committee

Does this report require to be approved?  Yes  No

Ref JC/PMCA/MS Date 19/05/26

## Charges for Non-Residential Services, Community Alarms, Meals Provision, Independent Sector Care Homes & Respite Care

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### Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the charging levels to be applied for non-residential services, community alarms, meals provision, independent sector care homes and respite care in 2026/27.

The Council's charging policy has been updated for 2026/27 to reflect the new rates. In line with the Discretionary Fees & Charges Policy report agreed at Policy and Strategy Committee on 28/09/23 the services discretionary charges will increase by 5%.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Adult Care and Social Work Committee recognises:

- (1) The threshold figure for payment of home support charges set at £298 for single people and £455 for couples.
- (2) The hourly rate for home support of £21.07.
- (3) The daily rate for attending an Integrated Day Service of £11.58.
- (4) The weekly rate for a Community Alarm of £3.94.
- (5) The charge for meals provided in day services of £5.96.
- (6) Implementation of the increase to Independent Sector Care Home fees as negotiated via COSLA, Scottish Care and the Scottish Government.
- (7) An uplift in charges for residential respite in line with increases in pensions and allowances; and Free personal care and nursing care will rise from £114.55 to £117.10 and £369.15 to £377.40.

### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	Improve economic opportunities and outcomes
Ambition statement	(12) Ensure our residents are able to achieve, maintain, and recover their independence through appropriate supports at home and in their communities
Programme of Work	Statutory / corporate / service requirement

## 1. Background

- 1.1 Local Authorities are empowered through the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and the Housing Scotland Act, 2001 to apply charges for services. In setting its charging levels, North Lanarkshire Council has followed the national guidance issued by COSLA in respect of charging.
- 1.2 The COSLA guidance operates on the principle that people on the lowest levels of income do not pay for the service and that those who do pay contribute according to their means. This objective is achieved by setting a charge threshold which is up-rated annually and applying a taper contribution of income above the threshold level (see 2.1).
- 1.3 In accordance with COSLA guidance, North Lanarkshire Council maximises the Income of all service users who are liable to make a contribution towards the cost of the service. The Tackling Poverty Team generated an average income of £721,359 over the last 3 years for people receiving a non-residential service.
- 1.4 The Council's charging policy has been updated for 2026/27 to reflect the new rates. In line with the Discretionary Fees & Charges report agreed at Policy and Strategy Committee on 28/09/23 the services discretionary charges will increase by 5%.

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## 2. Report

- 2.1 In line with the COSLA recommendations, the charge threshold for 2026/27 will be £298 per week for a single person and £455 for couples (2025/26 £284 and £434). Persons with income less than those figures will not be required to pay for home support services.
- 2.2 When calculating maximum service users charge, the Council deducts from their assessable income any costs which the service user is liable for in respect of housing costs, i.e. rent, mortgage, council tax and water charges. A taper contribution of 50% of excess income is then applied. For example, a single person with income of £310 per week after deductions would have their charge assessed as follows:

Income	£310
Threshold	£298
Disposable Income	£12
Client charge = £6 x 50% =	£6
- 2.3 The hourly rate for Home Support Services will increase to £21.07.
- 2.4 The charge applied for attending an Integrated Day Service will increase to £11.58 per day.
- 2.5 Charges for meals provided in an Integrated Day Service will increase to £5.96 per day.
- 2.6 The Community Alarm charge will increase to £3.94 per week.

### Independent Sector Care Home Fees - Interim

- 2.7 The Nursing and Residential Care Home interim rates are based on benchmarks for direct care costs and care home costs in the National Care Home Contract ("NCHC") Care Home Cost Model.

- 2.8 The rates which will apply to payment for Nursing and Residential Care for 2026/27, effective from 6th April (commencement of the tax year for pension uprating), are as undernoted:
- **Nursing Care Rate per person per week - £1,074.13** (2025/26 £1,013.05)
  - **Residential Care Rate per person per week - £930.45** (2025/26 £881.98)
- 2.9 This settlement reflects the challenging environment faced and the desire for all stakeholders to work in partnership. This recognises the Scottish Government's policy of increasing the earnings of direct care staff within commissioned adult social care to £13.45 hour in line with the Adult Social Care Pay policy commitment.
- 2.10 The Care Home Cost Model benchmarks Domestic and Catering staff to the National Minimum Wage, which is set by the UK Government and, as of 1 April 2026, this is £12.71 per hour.
- 2.11 This rate currently excludes an increase in pay for nurses and associated differentials. The offer comes with a commitment to consider the appropriate uplift to nursing care rate, maintaining associated differentials, within the model once Agenda for Change (AfC) pay negotiations have been concluded.

### **Respite**

- 2.12 The weekly charge for residential respite (£140.55 in 2025/26) will rise in line with increases in pensions and allowances to £147.25 for 2026/27.

### **Free Personal Care**

- 2.13 The rates to be applied to free personal care and nursing care for people in residential homes for 2026/27 will rise in accordance with the Scottish Government directive from £114.55 to £117.10 for free personal care (under 65), £254.60 to £260.30 for residential care and £369.15 to £377.40 for nursing care.

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### **3. Measures of success**

- 3.1 Through the income maximisation and charging policy, service users have their income fully maximised through the social security benefit system.
- 3.2 This policy ensures that disability benefits etc are claimed and the Council in turn receive revenue from charges for services.

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### **4. Supporting documentation**

- 4.1 N/A



**Claire Rae**  
Chief Officer, University Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire

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## 5. Impacts

<p><b>5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty</b> Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? <a href="https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments">https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments</a> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>5.2 Financial impact</b> Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Discretionary rates have increased by 5% in line with Discretionary Fees &amp; Charges Policy agreed at Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.</p>
<p><b>5.3 HR policy impact</b> Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p><b>5.4 Legal impact</b> Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p>
<p><b>5.5 Data protection impact</b> Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to <a href="mailto:dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk">dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk</a> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>5.6 Technology / Digital impact</b></p>

Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?

Yes  No

**5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact**

Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

**5.8 Communications impact**

Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

**5.9 Risk impact**

Is there a risk impact?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?

**5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty**

Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.

**5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact**

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes  No

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?

Yes  No