

# **Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

## **Briefing Note – No 7**

**Date:** July 2016

**To:** All Members of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Purpose:** This briefing note was as a result of discussion at the meeting of this Committee on 2 February 2016

**Heading:** Adult Social Care Income Collection

This briefing paper provides Members with information relating to the percentage of adult social care clients' contributions to their care package and whether any administrative fees are charged.

### **Background**

In 2015/16 Adult Social Care and Support charges raised debt to the value of £12.6 million. All clients participate in a financial assessment (means test) that determines how much they can contribute towards the cost of their care. The rules of the financial assessment fall in line with both the Care Act and the Department for Work and Pensions regulations.

### **Charging for Adult Social Care and Support**

Local authorities are not able to charge for certain types of care and support which must be arranged free. These are:

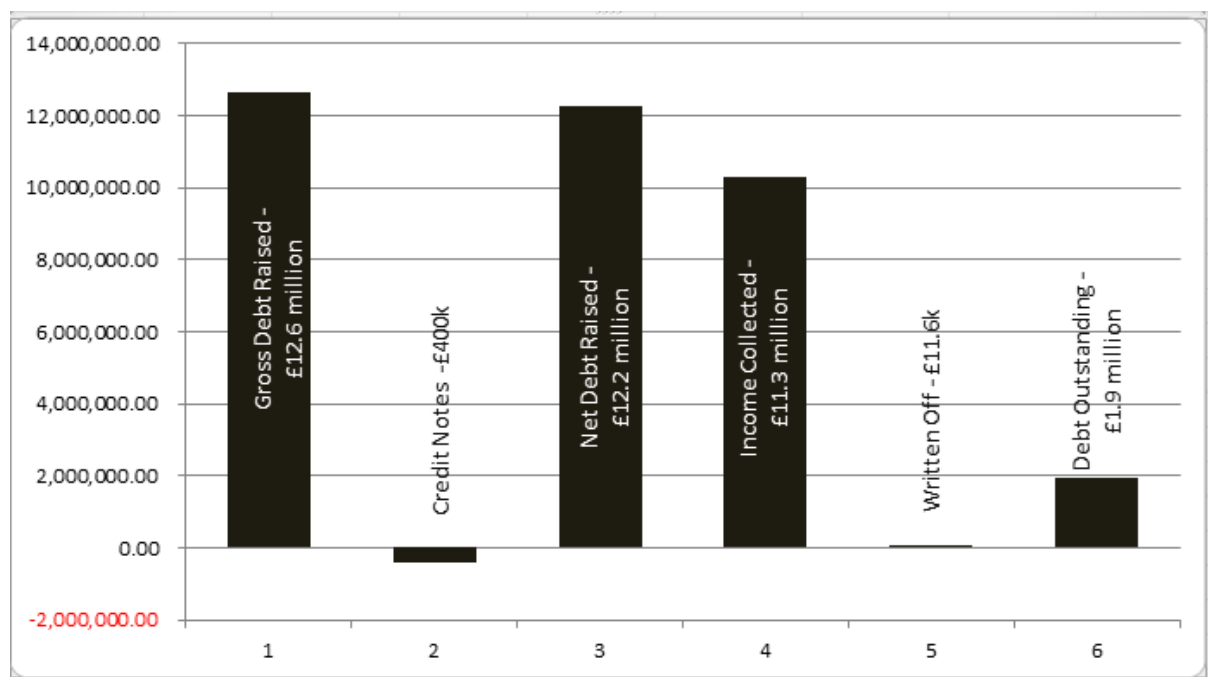
- Intermediate care, including reablement.
- Community equipment (aids and adaptations)
- Care and support provided to people with Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease.
- After-care services/support provided under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983.
- Any service or part of service which the NHS is under duty to provide. This includes Continuing Healthcare and the NHS contribution Registered Nursing Care.
- Assessment of needs and care planning may also not be charged for, since these processes do not constitute "meeting needs",

In addition, there are a proportion of clients that make no contribution towards the cost of their care because they have a low income. Part of the financial assessment process includes carrying out a welfare benefit check, ensuring that clients are in receipt of any benefits that they are entitled to, but also maximising income for the Council.

Administration charges are collected for clients taking advantage of the Deferred Payment Scheme. These fees are included in the client's final invoice, along with any interest payments due to the Council. There are currently 21 clients who are using the Deferred Payment Scheme.

Administration charges can also be applied in the case of someone who has eligible needs and assets above the prescribed upper capital limit who has asked the authority to arrange care and support on their behalf. There are currently 41 clients who meet the criteria.

The Chart below provides Members with an overview of debt raised and income collected for Adult Social Care and Support in 2015/16.



- Income collected – 84.04%
- Debt Written off – 0.09%
- Debt Outstanding – 15.87%

Members are advised that the amount of debt outstanding includes cases where legal charges have been applied to ensure monies will be repaid at the point of house sale.

The report providing this information is being developed to provide more information and in future, we will be able to state the percentage of debt that is secure, giving Members more granular information

Debt is managed by a small team in Adult Social Care. Members are advised that Social Care debt does not have the legislation for debt collection in the same way as other departments in the authority, i.e. Council Tax and Housing. We are still required by statute to provide care regardless whether a client pays or not, which does not give an incentive to make payment.

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