

# Summary Fair Treatment Assessment (FTA)

<b>Area for Assessment:</b>		
<b>Name of service or function etc</b>	Adult Social Care Fees & Charges	
<b>Which Service does this affect?</b>	Adult Services	
<b>Is this a new, existing or revised function?</b>	Revised	
<b>Summary of findings:</b>		
<b>Main conclusions on the likely impact of the function on different equality groups (protected characteristics):</b>		
<p>The review of fees and charges identified inequalities in the current system, whereby one group of people receive services free of charge whilst another group make a contribution towards the cost of those same services. The proposed changes are designed to remove this inequality and ensure that everyone is treated fairly in a clear, concise and transparent way. The fees and charges have been revised within the Corporate Fees and Charges Framework.</p> <p>Adult social care services are delivered to some of the most vulnerable people in the borough and the assessment found that three factors are most likely to lead to the revision of fees and charges affecting different groups in different ways: age, disability and socio-economic factors. However, the revision of the fees and charges is aimed at removing the inequalities that exist in the current system and the financial assessment process will ensure that only those who are able to, will be asked to contribute towards the cost of the services they receive. This will support Government Policy on promoting independence and social inclusion, whilst at the same time having due regard to Government proposals on welfare reform.</p> <p>Proposed changes to the Fairer Contribution Policy are a mitigating factor that limits the impact of increased charges on vulnerable and excluded groups by ensuring that everyone is treated in a fair and equitable way.</p> <p>Although the proposed changes to fees and charges do not directly contribute towards safeguarding vulnerable adults, Solihull Council has signed up to the safeguarding of adults, in conjunction with key partners, to ensure good practice and the timely sharing of relevant information.</p> <p>The assessment has taken into account some of the wider national and longer-term economic, social and environmental impacts of the services provided to adults by the Council. The proposed introduction of charges to a wider group of people will ensure that we deliver high quality services.</p>		
<b>Actions:</b>		
<b>Actions identified to address negative impacts identified or to better promote equality, human rights, cohesive and sustainable communities and safeguarding issues</b>		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Monitor impact of people using services and financial assessments when charges introduced by creating good electronic systems for data collection	Ensure that Fees and Charges operate in a fair and consistent way	March 2012

Signpost to relevant partner services for advice and support	Maximise care and support to service user and promote independence, inclusion and wellbeing	March 2012
Monitor take up to ensure that services are sensitive to the diverse needs and any preference to certain types of care are monitored	Ensure that the services we provide take account of the diverse make up of the borough's population both currently and in the future	March 2012
Maximise benefit take up	Make sure eligible clients obtain all the benefits they are entitled to	March 2012
<b>Date Assessment Signed Off</b>	July 2011	