



CYNGOR SIR

COUNTY COUNCIL

14/08/09

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Tai a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
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Annwyl Syr/Fadam

Pa: Mesur Arfaethedig ar Godi Ffioedd amd Ofal Cymdeithasol (Cymru)

Cyflwynaf oddi isod sylwadau ar ran Adran Tai a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn i'r ymghynghoriad diweddar ar godi ffioedd am ofal
cymdeithasol.

Gan obeithio bydd yr ychydig sylwadau amgaeedig yn ddefnyddiol. Peidiwch
oedi rhag cysylltu pe hoffech i ni esbonio unrhyw un o'r datganiadau.

Yn gywir,

Arwel Wyn Owen
Prif Swyddog - Datblygu

Sylwadau/Comments

Given the lack of detail provided within the consultation brief it is difficult to offer a comprehensive response as we are being asked to comment on principles and overarching intentions. Without having details of the intended measures we are unable to evaluate any proposals against current practice and procedures. In view of this we would respectfully request that a further consultation exercise be completed when the overarching aims have been fleshed out to ensure that they are evaluated against existing practice.

Whilst broadly supportive of the overall aims we must be awake to consequences which can arise from changes, i.e. the inference in the press that there would be no charge for transport to day care. Such a proposal may have unintentional impacts, in that transport services may subsequently have to be rationed. Will a definition of day care be provided as day care can include a broad range of services provided by a range of providers and would include some voluntary provision. If transport is to be provided free of charge who will be expected to meet the subsequent shortfall in income there may also be a need to confirm whether transport should free to the nearest day care facility or any day care facility. This example highlights the impact which one minor change could have, which may conflict with the original aim or which may bring additional or unintended cost implications.

There may be merit and advantage in aligning guidance on social care services and residential services. Whilst supportive of having an upper limit on charges we need reassurance that such proposals are sustainable in the long to medium term. The concern is that removing charges could increase demand on services as charges have contributed to manage the level of demand.

The aim of having more consistency is commendable as it will reduce obvious anomalies. We would welcome guidance on what is considered acceptable and what would be deemed excessive. Another request would be that sufficient notice be given of proposed changes with a timeframe to progress as it may be possible to offset or reduce the impact of changes over a 3 year period. If that is not possible LA's will require some financial redress to meet any cost deficits.

Another important consideration is that any charging system will need to be effective to administer as it would be counterproductive to spend money on bureaucratic collection or assessment procedures which will cost more to manage. Equally we need a process which is easy to explain and which service users can easily understand.