Summary of Proposals

Proposal 1: Standardise the approach to claims for night care costs for older people getting attendance allowance.

This proposal will impact people in receipt of social care who are also receiving the higher/enhanced rate of Attendance Allowance (AA) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Service users receiving these benefits and who do not currently receive funded 24-hour care receive an automatic allowance to help to pay for any night care they receive.

This proposal ensures everyone eligible is able to claim night care costs as a Disability Related Expenditure (DRE). This is the approach that is followed for all users who receive Personal Independence Payment.

Proposal 2: Introducing an Interim Funding fee

Interim Funding is offered when the Council agrees to pay the cost for a resident, who lacks mental capacity, to cover their care home costs for a temporary period until a longer term funding arrangement is put in place.

The funding will be applied if power of attorney or deputyship has been requested but not yet authorised. A one-off charge will be raised to cover the costs for arranging the residential care placement. Interest will be charged during the period in which interim funding is applicable.

Proposal 3: Setting a maximum amount of Disability Related Expenditure (DRE) at the level of disability benefit claimed.

This proposal involves setting a maximum amount that can be claimed for DRE. The maximum will be the equivalent of the disability benefit claimed by the service user.

Proposal 4: Introducing a charge for Assistive Technology (including Telecare).

The Council is proposing to introduce a charge for assistive technology. This means that service users who use assistive technology, but no other service, or pay the full cost of their care package, will be charged a flat rate towards the cost of their assistive technology.

Residents who pay a contribution towards the cost of any existing care package would not be required to pay this charge.