

Chair's Briefing to Adult Social Care Sub Committee

Subject: Transitional and Interim beds: Charging policy for residential services

It has been agreed by Adult Social Care officers and Brighton and Hove PCT that the normal charging policy be applied for transitional and interim beds in both local authority resource centres and any independent sector provision.

This ensures:

- equity for service users who use short-term and long-term care for reasons other than transitional and interim reasons.
- clarity and openness to service users and staff referring and working within the services
- income of the services is not compromised when budget pressures are significant.

The CRAG rules apply only to residential services. It is therefore proposed that the transitional flats (currently still two flats) continue to be charged at £84.50 rent p/w, which includes all council tax and utility bills, but excludes telephone. If any home care or day care services are provided charges may apply under the non-residential charging policy.

The CRAG rules stipulate that for the first eight weeks the local authority has discretion for any charges it makes for residential services, after that, a full financial assessment must be carried out and charges paid accordingly. Currently, the policy is to apply the full CRAG assessment from week one, except in exceptional circumstances.

Intermediate Care Services – both those received in the home or in residential beds (Craven Vale and in future, Knoll House) are not chargeable for the period that this service is deemed to be intermediate care. This is normally for a maximum of six weeks. These guidelines will be included in the local authority Choice Policy.

The aim of transitional and interim beds is to both reduce the number of people entering long-term care for the first time and also reducing delayed transfers of care in the hospitals.

The charging policy will be monitored and those who resist or refuse to move from acute hospital beds will be looked at on an individual basis with the Service Manager and Head of Income and Payments. A decision will be made on whether any charges will be foregone, only with agreement of the Head of Income and Payments and Manager Integrated Service, Older People and Physical Disability.

This policy is proposed to be used within the older people resource centres but to be shared with mental health services for older people so that consistency of practice can be ensured if applicable.