

Why did Halton decide to introduce a charge for your Appointeeship service?

Halton Borough Council had previously taken 50 per cent of the interest accrued in the account but over 11 years ago approval was sought to take 100 per cent of the interest accrued as a fee for providing the service. At the time a mail shot was sent out to all those in receipt of the appointeeship service to inform them of the fee. Halton Borough Council has approximately 250 appointeeships including residential appointeeships.

Halton is currently looking to introduce an annual fee of approximately £50 a year for the appointeeship service and approval for the introduction of this fee is currently being sought. The reason for introducing an annual fee is due to the fact that the cash offices where service users collect their weekly allowances are closing, as part of the budget savings. Instead service users will be able to collect their weekly allowances from the post office.

Did the introduction of a charge for the service impact on the number of Appointeeships in operation?

No

How did Halton determine the amount to be charged to service users for this service?

The Post Office charge £1.42 to send out a letter containing a unique bar code, which the service user then takes to the post office to collect their allowance. The Council transfers the funds on a weekly basis to the Post Office via BACS transfer and is charged a total of £10 for the transfer. Halton Council is unable to meet these charges and approval is therefore being sought for the introduction of an annual fee of £50 to cover these costs.

The post office collection service will give service users more flexibility in terms of where they can collect their weekly allowances and enable them to do so on weekday mornings and Saturdays, as the cash offices were only open 12noon-4pm Monday to Friday.

Halton do not provide a cash delivery service and if an individual cannot physically visit the cash office / post office it will be built into their care plan for a carer to undertake this role.

Is the charge financially assessed or is it a flat rate charge?

The fee is a standard charge and is charged to all service users who are in receipt of the service. We are aware that officers at Warrington Borough Council have also been asked to look at the possibility of introducing a charge for their appointeeship service.

Cathy Harper
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