



South Tyneside Council



We are South Tyneside Council.  
We give care and support to people in our area.



**Social care** is care and support that you get in your own home or in the local community. This might be in places like a day centre or care home.



When people aged 18 and older need support from us, we call it **adult social care**.

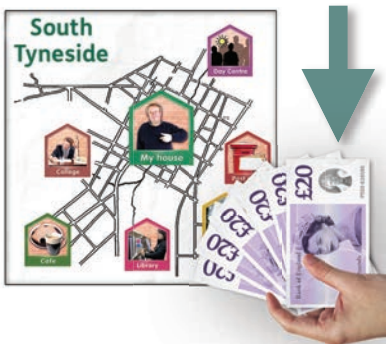


We are writing to let you know we are thinking about changing how we charge people for adult social care.

# Why we need to make changes



We have some old rules about how we charge people. We have not made any changes to these rules for a long time.



This means people in South Tyneside are paying less for care and support than in other places.



Lots of things have changed since we wrote our rules:



- People are living longer and have more care and support needs.



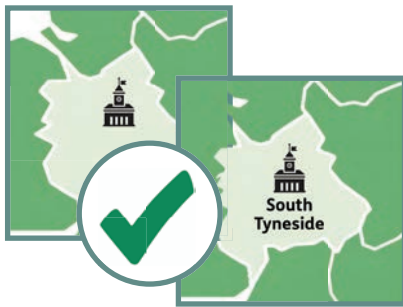
- We are having to help more and more people every year with the money we have.



- The way we charge people for care and support is really confusing.



These things mean we need to change the way we charge people for care and support.



We want to do things in the same way as other places.



We will make sure we give support to the people who need it most.

This will help to make things fairer for everyone.

# Paying for care and support



Before we ask people to pay for care and support, we do a **financial assessment**.

This looks at how much money people have and how much they can afford to pay.



The more money a person has, the more they pay for their care.



Some people do not have to pay anything for their care and support.

But most people have to pay something.



# What we want to change



The Government tells local councils what they can charge for adult social care.



Other local councils are charging this amount.



We have been charging less.

We want to change things.

We want to charge the same as what the Government and other local councils say.





After you have paid for your care, you should still have some money left every week.



You use this money to pay for things like food, bills and travel.



The lowest amount of money you should have left after you have paid for your care is called a **minimum increase guarantee**.

We call it **MIG** for short.

## How the change will affect people



The change means some people might have to pay more for their care.



Some people might pay less.



We want to keep costs as low as possible.



We will make sure that people are not charged more than they can afford to pay.

# Changing much we charge people for care and support

Some of the changes we are thinking of making are:



- Changing how much people pay for extra things they need because of their disability or health condition.



At the moment, there are lots of different amounts that people pay.



We want to make how much people pay, easier to understand.



- Looking at how much people pay to have care at home.

We will check every year to make sure people are paying the right amount.





- Charging people when they ask us to arrange their care and support.  
This is just for people who pay all of their care and support.



- Looking at how people can use computers to work out and pay for their care and support.



- Charging people for Deferred Payment agreements.  
This is when you put off paying charges if you go into a care home.

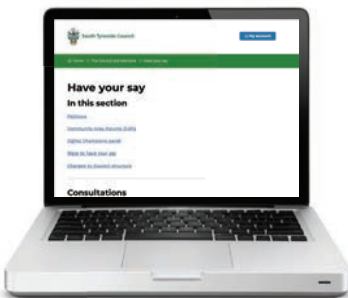


## Tell us what you think

We want to know what you think about how the changes will affect you.



We have some questions for you to answer.

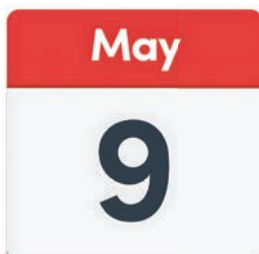


You can answer the questions online on our website:

**[www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/5259/Have-your-say](http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/5259/Have-your-say)**



The questions are not in easy read. You might need to ask someone to support you to read them.



You need to tell us what you think by **Friday 9th May 2025.**



We will look at everyone's answers.  
It will help us to decide what to do  
about the changes.



Thank you for reading our letter.