

Children, Young People & Learning



Charging Policy

Children's Social Care

Version 3
October 2010

Bracknell Forest Council
www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Charging Policy

Document name & file location	g//Policies & Procedures/Published Charging Policy for Children's Social Care	
Document Author	Policy & Commissioning Officer, Children's Social Care Bracknell Forest Council Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JD Telephone: 01344 352020	
Document owner	Penny Reuter Chief Officer: Children's Social Care Bracknell Forest Council	
Review date	This document is to be reviewed before end 2013	
Accessibility	This document can be made available in hard and electronic formats. No copies in other languages are currently available.	
Destruction date	Details of destruction dates	
How this document was created	Version 1	Author and Team S McKenzie Oct 2010
	Version 2	Team / Line Manager
	Version 3	CSMT
	Version 4	DMT
	Version 5	Public document or Pre-print Design Circulation
Circulation restrictions	No exceptions, FOI Exempt (Delete as appropriate)	
Version	Detail of change	Name & Date
3.0	Document agreed	14/10/10

Accessibility

This document can be made available in large print, Braille, audio or in electronic format.

Copies in alternative languages may also be obtained.

Please contact:

Policy and Commissioning Officer

Children's Social care

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Time Square

Market Street

Bracknell

Berkshire RG12 1JD

Email: sarah.roberts@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Telephone: 01344 352020

Fax: 01344 351521

Minicom: 01344 352045

Table of Contents

1	Policy Statement	1
2	Background Information	1

1 Policy Statement

Bracknell Borough Council's Policy with regard to charging for Children's Social Care Services is that:

1. The Council will not seek to charge parents for Children's Social Care services.
2. The Council will not seek to charge children for services except in cases where:
 - ❖ The service is provided under Section 2 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970¹; or the Children Act 1989 and
 - ❖ The child has reached 16 years old and has in his or her own right, substantial income or substantial² capital which generates income or has received a substantial award which is generating income to which the child is absolutely entitled, and,
 - ❖ Where a charge is made in these circumstances this will be assessed solely against the income for the child.
3. Though the Council will not charge for support or services where the child is below the age of 16, where the child / family have sufficient resources, the Council may assess³ and feel it is not necessary to provide support or services, such as when the child's needs can be met from existing resources, particularly where an award of a compensation payment has been obtained to pay for care.

2 Background Information

The principles that apply to adult services, as contained in the Community Care Act 1990 and Fairer Charging Guidance September 2003, do not transfer directly to Children's Social Care because the service is interventionist and is based on an assessment of the child's best interest rather than on their own and their family's choice.

In September 2004 the Executive Member for Social and Health Care Services and Housing agreed the application of this principle and approved that charges for Children's Services would only be sought from children in the circumstances noted above.

¹ This section sets out the types and range of services that local councils should have available to meet the needs of 'disabled people', which include provision of practical assistance in the home, provision of recreational facilities outside the home or assistance to take advantage of educational facilities, provision of assistance with works for adaptation in the home and provision of meals.

² 'Substantial' means invested capital valued at £250,000 or above to which the child is absolutely entitled.

³ Assessments are undertaken in line with the Framework for the assessment of Children in Need and their Families, published in June 2000 by Department of Health.