

Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) states that Administering Authorities should not charge for "short-term" housing-related support services, (i.e. those envisaged to last for less than two years).

Short-term services currently account for in excess of 65% of Supporting People funding in Herefordshire.

In respect of "long-term" housing-related support services (i.e. those envisaged to last for more than 2 years), the guidance states that there should be no charge to people who are in receipt of housing benefit or other qualifying benefits.

At present no charge is made to service users irrespective of the duration of the housing-related support services they receive.

A detailed analysis of long-term services was undertaken during the previous financial year as part of the OLM Charging Report. This confirmed that the majority of service users were in receipt of qualifying benefits and would therefore be exempt from charges.

The findings also informed the recommendation of the OLM Charging Report (January 2007); which states that the Administering Authority's approach to charging should continue to be subject to annual review in order to respond to changes in the profile of clients and service provision.

The diagram shows the Administering Authority's approach to charging for Supporting People funded services.

