



Adult Social Care: Community Alarms:

What is a Community Alarm?

A community alarm provides a direct connection between the client and the Lifeline staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Clients are provided with a system which comes with a base unit that connects via a telephone, and a pendant that can be worn on a cord around the neck, brooch style or with a wrist strap.

To raise an alert, client press the red button on their pendant or the base unit. This will connect them with control officers who will then call the appropriate help.

The proposal

The proposal is to implement a revised policy in relation to the community alarms service. The alarms are currently funded on an on-going basis through the adult social care budget; the proposal is to limit the provision of the community alarms call service by only providing alarms free of charge for 3 months unless there are exceptional circumstances.

After the initial 3 months provision the client will be able to decide if they would like to continue with a community alarm in which case they will have a choice to continue with the current service or to source an alternative provider. If the client decides to retain the current service then there would not be an additional installation fee, however a different provider may still want to raise an installation fee and we will then make arrangements to have the funded alarm removed.

The proposal ensures that for short term crisis intervention, clients will still be provided with a funded service but this will be time limited to a period of 3 months, after which, the client will be expected to fund the services themselves if they wish to keep the alarm (The cost of privately funding is circa £3 a week). It also ensures that where a community alarm forms part of a TeleCare service it will continue to be funded by Adult Social Care

The policy will include the ability to continue funding alarms where circumstances dictate that this is appropriate.

This proposal will affect the following:

- Clients who are already in receipt of this funded service (approx 900 clients) who will be reviewed and dependent on the outcome of that review potentially asked to fund the service themselves
- Clients in the future who may require the provision of a community alarm

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