

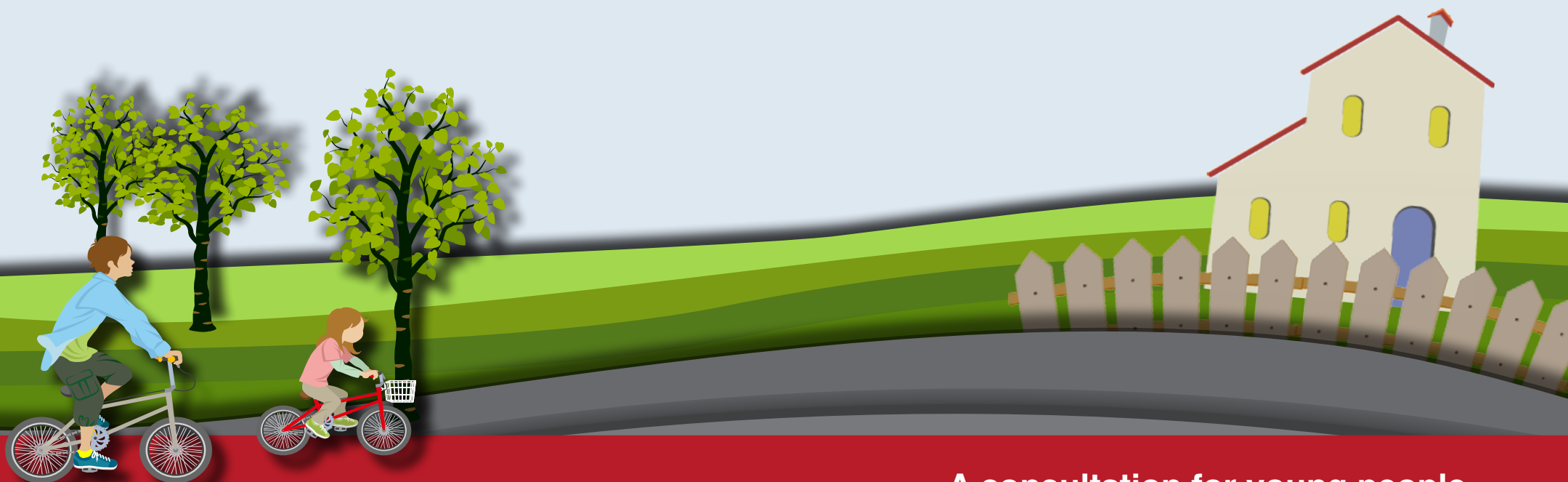


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Making Social Services Better

Putting **part 5** of the
Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
into action



A consultation for young people

We've got good social services in Wales but the Welsh Government is making them even better.

Social services help families and individuals when they need help.

They also help children and young people:

- when they're in danger of being hurt
- when they have family problems
- when they have a disability
- when they're in trouble with the law or police
- when they're looked after in care
- when they aren't being looked after as they should be by their families
- when they leave care and are supported to become adults.

A new way of doing things.

In 2014 we made a new
Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.

(An Act makes changes to the law.)

This new Act sets out everything that local authorities (councils) have to do to help people in their area.

It has 11 parts that cover everything social services do and this booklet is about part 5.

To read about the whole new Act
- [click here:](#)



Getting ready

Everyone working in social services will be changing the way they work and using this new Act from April 2016.

We're putting together the new arrangements (steps) now so everyone understands what the new Act means and what they need to do.

The arrangements will include:

- The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act itself
- New rules (regulations) that can be made because of the Act
- Codes of Practice (guides) for everyone who works in social services to follow.

This booklet tells you about some of the new rules and the Code of Practice that we have developed for part 5 of the Act.

We have already asked some people working in social services, and some children and young people, about these - but now we want to know what you think.

After this we'll send the codes and the regulations to the National Assembly for Wales for them to agree in time for everyone to start working to them from April 2016.



What is Part 5 about?

Part 5 of the Act covers social services issues that aren't covered in the other 10 parts.

These include giving local authorities the ability to charge people for the care and support that's provided such as:

- homecare
- community based care and support
- care homes
- preventative services and assistance.

i Preventative services step in early to help people before situations get worse.

Local authority will only charge people if they're sure someone can afford to pay and they can't charge more than the care and support costs.

Charging and financial assessments

Making it clear how much someone will have to pay.

i Financial assessments work out how much wealth a person has and if they can afford to pay.

The code of practice will:

- set out new steps for local authorities to assess and check if people can afford to pay for care and support
- set the maximum weekly amount someone can be charged for non-residential care and support
- make sure that no one has to pay the full cost for residential care if they have £24,000 or less
- make sure the care and support people are able to have free of charge doesn't change - for example people get free care and support for 6 weeks following a stay in hospital
- let local authorities charge a low set rates for preventative care and support and assistance
- make sure everyone who is charged gets a detailed statement that sets out how their charge is worked out.



Deferred payments

Giving people the choice to delay selling their house or property to cover care home costs until they are ready.

The code of practice:

- explains who might have to sell their house to pay for their care home costs
- makes it possible for people going into a care home to have their care home costs paid for by their local authority so they don't have to sell their house until they are ready
- sets out the rules that local authorities must follow when someone chooses to do this
- gives local authorities the ability to charge a low level of interest while they are covering costs until property is sold.

Review of Charges

Making sure that charges are right.

i A review can be to:

- get errors corrected,
- check charges are right
- show that charges would cause someone financial problems.

The code of practice makes it possible for anyone paying for care and support to ask for a review and to have decisions looked at again.



Thanks for reading this.

Please fill in the questions and send your answers to:

sswbimplementation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

or:

Sustainable Social Services
Implementation Branch
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

by 31 July 2015



Questions:

Do you think the new rules and the Code of Practice that we have developed for Part 5 of the Act are a good idea?

Yes

No

Don't know

Do you think we have left anything important out when making these plans?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment:

Comment: