

## Decision Record – Social Care Irrecoverable Debts

<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision</b>	Cllr Les Caborn Health
<b>Date of Decision</b> (not before 18 December 2015)	18 December 2015

### Decision Taken

That the 4 debts detailed in this report, accruing to £80,932.54 for debts spanning 2009 to 2012 are written-off as irrecoverable.

### Reasons for Decisions

The Council's Constitution empowers Portfolio Holders to write off individual debts of between £2000 and £50,000.

### Background Information

The Council uses all reasonable means to maximise income collection, prevent arrears arising, and manage outstanding debt effectively. For debts with health, these are usually arising from Continuing Health Care (CHC) determinations, and relate to periods where the council paid for an individual's care whilst eligible for CHC.

Eligibility for CHC is determined through a process of assessment and ratification panel which has both social care and health membership. This can be a long process and significant costs can be incurred whilst decisions are being made. All costs after day 29 can be recharged where it is found the other organisation is responsible for the costs.

The Council pursues all debts relating to those the Council was paying for, who are then found to be CHC eligible. These are followed up by care managers from Social Care and Support, as well as finance staff in Benefits, Assessments and Income Control. Where there is difficulty in recovering such debts, this is escalated to Heads of Service for Social Care and Support and Finance to address with health colleagues.

The Council is currently pursuing a number of outstanding debts and in the case of the 4 debts listed in this report there is no basis to pursue these. It has been agreed that these debts totalling £80,932.54 are written-off. The Portfolio Holder may approve the write-off of individual debts between £2,000 and £50,000.

The cost of writing-off would be set against the provision for bad debts that the County Council sets aside each year. The social care dab debt provision at the end of 2014/15 stood at £266,400.

**Financial Implications**

As set out in the report. Debts totalling £80,932.54

<b>Report Author</b>	Caroline Potter
<b>Head of Service</b>	John Betts
<b>Strategic Director</b>	David Carter
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Les Caborn

**Checklist**

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or Exempt?</b> (State the category of exempt information)	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

**List of Reports considered**

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm5/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3370/Committee/554/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

**List of Background Papers****Members and officers consulted or informed**

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Les Caborn  
 All Strategic Directors  
 Legal – Alison Hallworth, Ian Marriott  
 Finance – Virginia Rennie  
 Equality – Belinda Blake  
 Democratic Services – Paul Williams

**Adult Social Care & Health OSC – party spokes:**

Councillors Mike Perry, Maggie O'Rourke and Kate Rolfe