

Market Update – Increase in ASC Provider Rates 2022/2023

Dear Providers

In accordance with our stated three year strategic approach, The Council has agreed for 2022/23 to proceed with a minimum commitment to a 1.5% uplift across all Adult Social Care market providers.

In addition to this and in light of working towards a Fair Cost of Care calculation, The Council is considering the optimal utilisation of an associated non-recurrent allocation of £966,000 for 2022/23 targeted at homecare service provision, in an effort to offset some of the impact associated with the implementation of the National Living Wage, increases in employer National Insurance contributions and general inflationary pressures in 2022/23. As our priority remains the homecare market we are proposing to share £966,000 across this sector only; this equates to an additional 2.3%, giving up to a 3.8% uplift.

Providers will see an uplift in their rates of 1.5% from 1 April 2022 as detailed further in the update below. Information relating to allocation of monies associated with the Fair Cost of Care initiative will be shared as soon as possible, and providers will be notified of arrangements for obtaining those supporting funds which will be backdated to 1 April 2022.

The recurrent impact resulting from the work associated with the Fair Cost of Care initiative will be assessed later in the year and considered as part of any further recurrent uplift either in year or as part of the review of uplifts for 2023/24 and could mean the increase is not as expected, as a result of the local authority needing to offset any reduction in investment on ongoing monies (e.g. the Fair Cost of Care funds are reduced or cease completely).

This update sets out the details of the agreed increases for 2022/23.

Uplift Context and Covid 19 Pandemic

On 25 February 2021 the Council agreed to increases in rates for Residential & Nursing, Community Based Services Framework, Supported Living provision, Direct Payments, and a small number of providers where it is contractually required to increase rates for 2021/2022 with a value of £803,679, as part of a 3-year strategic approach to undertake market uplifts across the Adult Social Care commissioned services market with further significant investment anticipated for 2022/23 and 2023/24 of 1.5% and 2% respectively.

The ongoing impact of the global pandemic - Covid-19, has continued to impact the social care provider market. The Council has continued to provide additional support to sustain the delivery of services through a range of means, including significant additional financial support from within existing budgets and via central government COVID-19 targeted grant monies.

Walsall Council has continued to support local care providers, both financially and in kind, including;

- payment against planned care levels, rather than payments for actual care time delivered, across domiciliary care provision,
- improved payment frequency, and
- implemented a process to support additional provider expenditure supporting all care providers to access financial relief for additional Covid-19 related expenditure which continued through to Autumn 2021.

The Council appreciates the pressures across our health and social care services and recognises the challenges to staff retention and recruitment. To support the Community Based Service (CBS) provider market we will continue to pay more frequently and by support plan value, to assist financial stability and improve cash flow for providers. The mandate allowing providers flexibility to prioritise resources as a one off day to day change to meet existing service users' needs will also remain.

In return it is of paramount importance for CBS providers to ensure all care delivery continues to be clocked in/out via the CM Mobile App with manual entry used by exception, recognising the absence of call logs will result in non-payment. Any variations and longer term changes will require providers to complete the revised 'Domiciliary Care Provider (Community Based Services) Notification of Change' form. Provider are reminded not to amend the delivery of care and support without a revised purchase order.

During 2020/21 & 2021/22 Walsall Council has been allocated funds detailed in the table below from the Department of Health and Social Care for distribution to eligible providers in Walsall in line with national guidance. This includes most recently the national Workforce Grant.

Infection Control Fund – Round 1 (2020/21)	£2,288,564
Infection Control Fund – Round 2 (2020/21 & 2021/22)	£2,342,514
Adult Social Care Rapid Testing Fund (2020/21)	£592,364
Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund (2021/22)	£1,469,806
Adult social care extension to Infection Control and Testing Fund (2021/22)	£1,071,224
Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund: Round 3 (2021/22)	£1,675,824
Adult Social Care Omicron Support Fund (2021/22)	£357,956
Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for adult social care	£969,465
Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for adult social care, round 2	£1,789,781

The Infection Control and Testing grants have been devised to help reduce the rate of Covid-19 transmission and support testing. Providers have been required to complete the CQC national tracker documents and submit spending reports to monitor progress with the council in order to be eligible for direct funding.

The general purpose of the Workforce related grants are designed to address adult social care workforce capacity pressures going forward.

In addition to support given through direct government grants The Council has provided an additional £2,021,440 through our Local Authority Covid-19 support funding. This included our Additional Expenditure programme which provided vital support to providers during the height of the pandemic and which ceased in September 2021.

The Council has continued to provide support through our targeted provider forums, to provide ongoing information exchange between the Council, our care providers and partners with better insight into the impacts of the pandemic at a local level and are key to open communication across the sector.

We continue to provide infection control support throughout joint work with Public Health, the distribution of PPE from our Goscote Distribution Hub and deployment of staff resources from within our providers service and from across the community and voluntary sector.

The Council remains cognisant of the ongoing financial pressures being experienced by providers resulting from the National Living Wage, increases in employer National Insurance contributions and the general inflationary trends nationally. Against this The Council must consider savings required totalling £9,013m in 2022/23 to maintain a balanced budget, as it is illegal for the Council to knowingly commit expenditure beyond its means, or authority to spend.

Rates applicable from 1st April 2022

The rates shown below will be effective from 1st April 2022 unless otherwise stated:

Older Persons and Mental Health over 65 Residential and Nursing

Care	Rate per Resident per Week 2021/2022 (old rate)	Rate per Resident per Week 2022/2023 (new rate)
Older Person Residential	£516.11	£523.85
Older Person Residential EMI	£582.77	£591.51
Older Persons Nursing (Excluding FNC)	£604.99	£614.06
Older Persons Nursing EMI (Excluding FNC)	£680.74	£690.95

Additional Payments / Top ups

If you are currently in receipt of additional payments or top ups from the Council then it will be the standard rate above which will receive the uplift. Any additional payments will not be uplifted.

For example:

If a placement for 'Older People Residential' which in 2021/2022 was £516.11 per week received a top up to take the overall price paid by the Council to £605.11 per week the following calculations would apply:

Year	Standard rate (per week)	Additional payment/top up	Weekly total
2021/2022	£516.11	£89.00	£605.11 per week
2022/2023	£523.85 (uplift applied)	£89.00 (no change)	£612.85 per week

Complex Care Residential & Nursing and Specialist Mental Health

The Council is awarding an uplift of 1.5%.

Out of borough service providers

If your care home is located outside the Borough of Walsall and you are currently receiving the 'Walsall Council rate' (in the table above) you will receive the increase as set out in this letter. If you are currently paid in line with your host Local Authority's rate this will continue.

If you are currently paid in line with your host Local Authority rate and this has been subject to change, please supply a copy of the written confirmation of the new rate from your host local authority, which will be forwarded to our colleagues in Adult Social Care for consideration.

Reablement and Rapid Response

The Council is increasing the minimum hourly rate from £15.57 to £15.80 per hour.

If you currently receive more than £15.80 then this will not change and no uplift will be applied.

Community Based Services (CBS) Framework – Older People, Complex, Mental Health Functional and Mental Health Dementia

The Council is increasing the minimum hourly rate from £15.57 to £15.80 per hour.

If you currently receive more than £15.80 per hour, then this will not change and no uplift will be applied.

The 2022/2023 Minimum Domiciliary Care rate is:

Banding	2021/22	2022/23
15 minutes (paid as 20)	£5.19	£5.27
30 minutes	£7.79	£7.90
45 minutes	£11.68	£11.85
60 minutes	£15.57	£15.80

Supported Living

Provision of Supported Living for Complex Needs Framework (Lots 1 – 7) in the borough of Walsall:

For all framework contracts Rate Card rates for 2022/2023 to be uplifted by 1.5%.

Spot purchase contracts for the provision of Supported Living for Complex Needs:

Spot purchase contracts for 2022/2023 to be uplifted by 1.5%.

Direct Payments

For the Domiciliary Care element of a direct payment, the Council is increasing the hourly rate to £15.80 in line with community based services framework:

If you currently receive more than £15.80 then this will not change and no uplift will be applied.

For the Supported Living element of a Direct Payment, a 1.5% uplift will apply from in line with Supported Living Framework and contracted Supported Living provision.

For the Personal Assistant element of a Direct Payment, the rate will increase from £10.88 to £11.04 for 2022/2023.

For the Day Opportunities element of a Direct Payment, a 1.5% uplift will apply for 2022/2023.

Day Care

In house and external Day Care will be uplifted by 1.5%.

Contracted uplift

The Council is contractually obliged to apply an uplift to a small number of providers. This element equates to an estimated investment of £227,976 for 2022/23 (subject to confirmation of the February national RPI).

Summary of Investment – Externally Commissioned Services

The table below demonstrates the financial commitment resulting from the application of the second year of the councils three year strategic approach to market uplifts (1.5%). This provides a total market investment for 2022/23 of £1,245,122.

Area	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	1% Uplift on 2020/21 £	Revised 1.5% Uplift on 2021/22 £	2% Uplift on 2022/23 £
Residential & Nursing	308,297	512,336	632,101
Domiciliary Care	162,243	258,716	332,647
Direct Payments	145,846	188,625	299,027
Supported Living	152,244	238,644	312,148
Day Care	1,986	1,218	4,072
Shared Lives*	14,845	18,026	30,436
Reablement & Rapid Response	18,218	27,599	37,352
Total	803,679	1,227,138	1,647,781

*further uplifts associated with Shared Lives provision is subject to completion of the new banding system which aimed at standardisation.

Future Proposals

The increase in rates set out above for 2022/2023 forms part of Walsall Council's medium term strategy to 2023/2024. The proposed model for future rate increases for 2023/24 will be confirmed next year and will be dependent on budget availability and if any services are competitively tendered each year and the outcome of the Fair Cost of Care exercise.

For general queries please email:

AdultSocialCareCommissioning@walsall.gov.uk

For Invoicing Arrangements please see Appendix 1

Appendix 1 - Invoicing Arrangements 2022/2023

Area	Payment Detail	Contact details address/Submission of invoices
Providers paid by Electric Call Monitoring – Older People, Complex, Mental Health Functional & Mental Health Dementia and non-contracted providers	Rates will be applied to system with effect from 1 st April 2022	Remittance is sent via email to the provider. Requests for copies should be sent to: ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk
Direct Payments	Rates will be applied from 1 st April 2022	
Residential & Nursing Permanent Placements	Rate will be applied to the system with effect from 1 st April 2022	
Replacement Care	Providers required to submit invoice(s) with new rates applicable from 1 st April 2022. Please include Order details and MOSAIC reference on invoice.	Invoices to be submitted by email to: ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk
Rapid Response	Providers required to submit invoice(s) with new rates applicable from 1 st April 2022. Please include Order details and MOSAIC reference on invoice.	Invoices to be submitted by email to: ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk
Reablement	Rates will be applied from 1 st April 2022	ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk Commissioned Care Payments Team Adult Social Care Civic Centre 3 rd Floor Zone 3D Darwall Street Walsall WS1 1TP
If you are unsure where to send your invoice please contact	ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk Commissioned Care Payments Team Adult Social Care Civic Centre 3 rd Floor Zone 3D Darwall Street Walsall WS1 1TP Telephone: 01922 652737	