



Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund 2024 to 2025 – Initial Report Template (Accessible version)

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Use this template to complete the metrics reporting as part of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) in 2024 to 2025.

Note: local authorities are not required to publish their own MSIF returns for 2024 to 2025, as set out in the MSIF guidance for 2024 to 2025.

Additional note for accessible version of the template: Please fill in all sections of this template to show the information exactly as it appeared in the final MSIF reporting template returned to DHSC. Where answers were given in the reporting template by choosing from a dropdown menu, please replicate the text chosen from the dropdown menu in full.

Local authorities must complete all sections.

Templates should be returned to msifcorrespondence@dhsc.gov.uk.

Deadline for submission: 11:59pm on 22 May 2024

Section 1: Instructions

Background and context

The Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) was announced at the 2022 autumn statement, with the primary purpose of supporting local authorities to make tangible improvements to adult social care services in their area. In July 2023, the government announced a further £570m across 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 as part of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) Workforce Fund.

For 2024 to 2025, these 2 funds have been merged into a single Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund worth £1,050m. The primary purpose of the fund in 2024 to 2025 is to support local authorities to maintain improvements made from 2023 to 2024 within the fund target areas. This funding is also expected to support local authorities to seek further improvements to adult social care services in their area, in particular to build capacity and improve market sustainability.

As set out in the guidance for each grant, local authorities are required to submit both an initial and final report in each year of the fund, confirming how the funding has been spent and performance against each of the three target areas.

Instructions

The initial report for 2023 to 2024 was submitted to the department by local authorities in May 2023. This template consists of 2 parts: Sections 2 to 7 are the final report for the 2023 to 2024 fund. Sections 8 to 12 are the initial report for the 2024 to 2025 fund.

Given that this template includes 2 different reports covering 2 different years, it is important that the person completing the template takes time to read the Guidance at the beginning of each section in order to minimise the risk of incorrect data being entered.

Local authorities must use this template to return the required information for both the 2023 to 2024 final report and 2024 to 2025 initial report to DHSC by **11.59pm on 22 May 2024**. Once completed, this template should be submitted to the department by emailing **MSIFCorrespondence@dhsc.gov.uk** and attaching a copy. Further details on the required information can be found in the relevant section. Any questions regarding the metrics, template or submission process should be directed to **MSIFCorrespondence@dhsc.gov.uk**.

Local authorities are reminded that, in addition to this template, they are also required to submit an MSIF Capacity Plan for 2024 to 2025. This must be submitted by 11:59pm on 10 June 2024.

Section 2: Guidance 2023 to 2024

Background and context to 2023 to 2024 final report

The grant guidance (condition 3, paragraph 1.16) for the 2023 to 2024 Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund states that local authorities are required to submit a final report to the department. This final report follows from the initial report submitted in May 2023 and must include:

- confirmation that the local authority has spent its share of the grant in full on adult social care.
- confirmation that the local authority has used its share of the £162m Fair Cost of Care component of the fund to maintain fee uplifts originally made as part of the 2022 to 2023 Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund.
- a completed 'spend return' section.
- a record of performance against the metrics specified in each of the target areas.

The subsequent MSIF Workforce Fund (announced July 2023) also required local authorities to explain how they used this additional funding.

Overview of report

The following sections of this template therefore set out the information to be submitted as part of the final report for 2023 to 2024. The sections included in the report are as follows:

- **a spend return for the 'original' 2023 to 2024 MSIF money:** to confirm that the funding has been spent on ASC and how it has been spent across the target areas
- **a spend return for the 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund:** to confirm that the funding has been spent on ASC and how it has been spent across the target areas
- **final reporting metrics on fee rates:** to report final average fee rates for 2023 to 2024 across service types
- **final reporting metrics on waiting times:** to report average waiting times (or alternative metric) for the end of the 2023 to 2024 financial year
- **final reporting metrics on workforce:** to report data on workforce recruits and leavers as of April 2024

Further details on each area can be found in the relevant section.

Please note that the spend returns for the 2023 to 2024 MSIF and 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Funds are separate and are in different sections. The spend and target areas reported in the 'MSIF spend return 2023 to 2024' section concern the original MSIF announced at the 2022 Autumn Statement. The spend and target areas reported in the 'MSIF WF spend return' section concern the MSIF Workforce Fund announced in July 2023.

Having separate spend returns is to reflect the fact that these were 2 distinct funds in 2023 to 2024 and to allow local authorities to demonstrate any changes in their use of the funding and target areas between the funds.

Section 3: MSIF spend return 2023 to 2024

2023 to 2024 MSIF spend return

Instructions/guidance

This spend return asks local authorities to confirm how the money from the 2023 to 2024 MSIF was spent and that it was used in line with the grant conditions. Further guidance on each question is as follows:

Question 1: No further guidance.

Question 2: Note that the email address provided here will be the one DHSC will contact for any queries relating to this return.

Question 3: confirmation required to meet grant condition that all funding be used on ASC.

Question 4: Confirmation required to meet grant condition that the 'Fair Cost of Care' portion of funding be used to maintain fee uplifts.

Question 5: State which target areas the local authority has focused on in 2023 to 2024, regardless of the level of funding used. These areas should be the same as those selected in the initial report for 2023 to 2024.

Question 6: Report specific amounts spent on each target area in 2023 to 2024, reflecting the target areas chosen in Question 5. Note that spending on the administrative costs of the fund should not exceed £10,000 or 0.3% of the local authority's allocation (whichever is greatest).

Those completing the return are reminded that this section concerns the spend return for the 'original' 2023 to 2024 MSIF funding **only**. There is a separate section for the 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund spend return.

Questions

(1) Please report your local authority name and 2023 to 2024 MSIF funding allocation.

Local authority name:

Walsall

2023 to 2024 MSIF Funding allocation (excluding MSIF Workforce Fund):

£3,352,856.00

(2) Please enter the details of the person completing this form.

Name:

Enter your response here.

Email address:

Enter your response here.

(3) Please confirm that the 2023 to 2024 MSIF funding has been spent in full on adult social care.

Yes – the funding has been spent in full on adult social care

(4) Please confirm that the Fair Cost of Care portion of the funding has been used to maintain fee uplifts originally made as part of the 2022 to 2023 Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund.

Yes – the funding has been used to maintain fee uplifts

(5) Please confirm which of the target areas the local authority focused on in 2023 to 2024 (note these should be unchanged from those chosen in the initial report for 2023 to 2024).

Increasing fee rates to support market sustainability:

Yes – we targeted this area

Increasing workforce capacity and retention:

No – we did not target this area

Reducing waiting times:

No – we did not target this area

(6) Please confirm the level of spend made on each target area as part of the 2023 to 2024 Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund.

Total 2023 to 2024 MSIF spending on increasing fee rates*.

£3,352,856.00

Total 2023 to 2024 MSIF spending on increasing workforce capacity and retention.

£0.00

Total 2023 to 2024 MSIF spending on reducing waiting times.

£0.00

Total spending on administrative costs of the fund.

£0.00

Total 2023 to 2024 MSIF spend.

£3,352,856.00

*Note that the figure entered for total MSIF spending on fee rates should include **both** the Fair Cost of Care portion of the fund and any additional fee rate spend made using MSIF money.

Section 4: MSIF Workforce Fund spend return

Instructions/guidance

This spend return asks local authorities to confirm how the money from the 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund was spent and that it was used in line with the grant conditions. Further guidance on each question is as follows:

Question 1: No further guidance.

Question 2: Confirmation required to meet the grant condition that all funding be used on ASC.

Question 3: State which of the target areas the local authority focused on with the 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund funding, regardless of the level of funding used. Please note that although the target areas selected for the MSIF Workforce Fund can be different to those selected with the 'original' 2023 to 2024 MSIF funding, they should be the same areas as those reported in the initial report for the 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund.

Question 4: report specific amounts spent on each target area with the MSIF Workforce Fund money, reflecting the target areas chosen in Question 3.

Question 5: An optional text response giving local authorities the opportunity to explain why they chose different target areas for the Workforce Fund to the 'original' MSIF, if applicable.

To check that MSIF Workforce Fund money has been used as additional funding, the department will look at the increase in expenditure revenue when revenue outturn (RO) data for 2023 to 2024 is published, and make a comparison to the budgeted expenditure for 2023 to 2024. Subsequent to that publication, we will be in touch with local authorities where we believe this expectation has not been met.

Those completing the return are reminded that this section concerns the spend return for the 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund **only**. There is a separate section for the 2023 to 2024 'original' MSIF spend return.

The expenditure reported here against each target area is in addition to existing spending already provided through the 'original' MSIF for 2023 to 2024 and that this will be taken into account when evaluating improvement in each area.

Questions

(1) Please enter your 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund allocation.

£2,177,567.00

(2) Please confirm that the local authority's 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund allocation has been spent in full as additional funding to adult social care.

Yes – the funding has been spent in full on adult social care

(3) Please confirm which of the target areas the local authority decided to focus their 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund activity on (note that these should be unchanged from those chosen in the initial MSIF WF report for 2023 to 2024).

Increasing fee rates paid to ASC providers:

Yes – we targeted this area

Increasing workforce capacity and retention:

No – we did not target this area

Reducing waiting times:

No – we did not target this area

(4) Please confirm your spend on each of the target areas as part of the 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund.

Total 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund spend on increasing fee rates paid to ASC providers:

£2,177,567.00

Total 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund spend on increasing workforce capacity and retention:

£0.00

Total 2023 to 2024 MSIF Workforce Fund spend on reducing waiting times:

£0.00

Total confirmed spend:

£2,177,567.00

(5) (Optional) If you have chosen different target areas to the original 2023 to 2024 MSIF, please use the text box below to explain your decision. (Maximum 500 characters)

Enter your response here.

Section 5: Fee rates 2023 to 2024

This fee rate collection gives us better and more timely insight into the fee rates paid to external care providers. This data was collected through the Fair Cost of Care process and in 2021 to 2022 and earlier, through the Better Care Team/iBCF. It builds on the provisional fee rate data for 2023 to 2024 provided in the MSIF initial report. Local authorities are reminded that, as with previous years, fee rate data provided to the department will be published.

Instructions/guidance:

Provisional fee rate data for 2023 to 2024 has already been published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/market-sustainability-and-improvement-fund-2023-to-2024-care-provider-fees>

These questions cover actual average (mean) fees paid by your local authority (gross of client contributions/user charges) to external care providers for your local authority's eligible clients. Specifically the averages should:

- EXCLUDE any fee rates paid to internal care providers
- EXCLUDE any care packages which are part funded by Continuing Health Care funding
- EXCLUDE/BE NET OF any amounts that you usually include in reported fee rates but are not paid to care providers, for example your local authority's own staff costs in managing the commissioning of places
- EXCLUDE/BE NET OF any amounts that are paid from sources other than eligible local authority funding and client contributions/user charges, i.e. you should exclude third party top-ups, **NHS Funded Nursing Care** and full cost paying clients
- INCLUDE/BE GROSS OF client contributions/user charges
- INCLUDE fees paid under spot and block contracts, fees paid under a dynamic purchasing system, payments for time travel in home care, any allowances for external provider staff training, fees directly commissioned by your local authority and fees commissioned by your local authority as part of a Managed Personal Budget

Questions

(1) Please report your final average external fee rate for 2023 to 2024 for the following service types.

Average amount paid to external providers for 18+ home care (£ per contact hour):

£18.00

Average amount paid to external provider care homes without nursing for clients aged 65+ (£ per client per week):

£678.94

Average amount paid to external provider care homes with nursing for clients aged 65+ (£ per client per week):

£894.07

Average amount paid to external provider care homes without nursing for clients aged 18-64 (£ per client per week):

£868.54

Average amount paid to external provider care homes with nursing for clients aged 18-64 (£ per client per week):

£1,280.47

Average amount paid to external provider supported living for clients aged 18+ (£ per blended hour, reflecting core and additional hours*):

£17.00

**Blended denotes weighted average between core and additional hours.

(2) Please provide additional commentary if any of the figures provided above are different to those reported in the initial May 2023 return. (Maximum 500 characters).

Actual paid rates for these cohorts continued to increase during the year as there are price pressures within residential and nursing. Whilst there are published rates, a large number of placements also have either a first party (LA) top up or some form on additional payment.

(3) Please detail any other fee uplifts not described by the categories above. If possible, please provide the same information for these other fee uplifts as asked for above. Alternatively, local authorities may wish to provide a link to their published 'rate card' (Maximum 1,000 characters).

We have also provided increases for supported living, shared lives and the various elements with direct payments.

For 2023/2024 these were as follows:

- Supported living 9.47% increase from £15.53 per hour to £17.00 per hour
- Shared lives bespoke % increases
- Personal assistants 10.15% increase from £11.29 per hour to £12.44 per hour

Section 6: Waiting times 2023 to 2024

Instructions/guidance

To assess whether improvement has been made, local authorities must share data on waiting times with DHSC. Local authorities must submit data on the same waiting times metric as they provided at the initial report in May 2023. This is to allow for comparison between the data submitted in the initial and final reports.

Question 1 (Preferred Metric)

- the preferred reporting metric is for local authorities to submit the mean waiting time (average number of days) between initial contact or referral to the local authority, and for either support, a care package, or a direct payment to begin
- this should be the mean waiting time elapsed from initial contact or referral for any person for whom support, a care package or direct payment commenced during the final quarter of 2023 to 2024 (1st January - 31st March 2024)
- the mean waiting time should be calculated across **all service types, including both long-term and short-term support, and should include any cases where equipment has been provided**
- please note that when calculating the average wait time, only those cases which result in an individual receiving support, a care package, or a direct payment should be included. Cases which do not result in these outcomes should not be included in the calculation
- cases where following an initial contact, an individual receives advice, information, signposting to other support or something similar should **not** be included. In such cases where the same individual then re-contacts the local authority at a later point and this request ends up with the individual receiving support, then the wait time should be calculated from the point of recontact rather than the initial contact which ended in advice rather than support
- if an assessment leads to a person being referred to more than one service type or support, you should treat these services as separate cases and include separate waiting times for each aspect of provision/support when calculating the average. If such an approach may cause challenges for the local authority, then please just use the wait time between initial contact and the provision of the 'main' type of support or service, explaining your approach in the comments

This data on the final quarter of 2023 to 2024 will then be compared with the waiting time data submitted for the final quarter of 2022 to 2023 in the MSIF initial report.

Question 2 (Alternative Metric)

- the Department recognised that some local authorities may not have been in a position to report the preferred reporting metric in their MSIF initial report
- if this is the case and the local authority reported an alternative metric in the MSIF initial report, then they should report data against **the same** alternative metric
- local authorities should report the actual numeric result for their metric, the units of the result and then set out the full name and explain the metric

Local authorities are reminded that for 2024 to 2025, the waiting times metric will be measured through Client Level Data (CLD).

Questions

(1) If possible, please report the mean waiting time (in days) between initial contact or referral to the local authority, and for either support, a care package, or a direct payment to begin.

84.35

(2) Otherwise, please report an alternative metric on waiting times or waiting lists.

Enter your response here.

(3) Please explain as clearly and specifically as you can, the metric and definition you used alongside any other relevant information about your metric and/or data. Please also explain the reason you used this metric rather than that stated in row 26. (Maximum 500 characters).

Enter your response here.

Section 7: Workforce 2023 to 2024

Instructions/guidance:

These questions cover changes in workforce in local authority commissioned care providers in the local authority area.

What is required:

- local authorities must collect and report 2 sets of information concerning the ASC workforce. These relate to the number of people who, in the period **1 April - 30 April 2024** i) **joined** a care provider as an employee ii) **left** employment with a care provider.

Scope:

- for the purposes of this reporting, the term 'care provider' should be taken to only include care providers that i) the local authority commissions care from and ii) are based within the local authority boundary. Excluding providers based outside the local authority prevents the same providers being contacted by multiple councils and reduces the risk of double counting
- there is no distinction on the exact job role of the person and all care provider employees are in scope
- staff who began their employment in the reporting period and left before the end of the reporting period **should be included in the responses to both** question 1 and question 2
- for Question 2, count all instances where a person leaves their employment at a care provider during the reporting period. The reason they left and their destination (for example, another care provider or employment outside the sector) do not need to be considered

Exclusions:

- do NOT include agency staff or instances where a person moved roles within the same organisation
- count in terms of number of people, so FTE is irrelevant, as is the number of hours worked. For instance, a person employed on a zero hours contract in April but had not yet worked a shift by the end of the reporting period would still count in these figures

Approach:

- as this same data was collected last year, using the same definition, local authorities should aim to follow the same methodology and make best endeavours to provide comparable data
- local authorities should request the relevant information from eligible providers and then report the sum of the figures they receive from the providers who gave the relevant information
- any reasonable and practical steps and interpretations taken to achieve this should be explained in question 5. Local authorities should **not** attempt to estimate this figure or extrapolate if a low number of responses are received

- local authorities must report the number of eligible providers who provided the relevant information alongside the total number of providers eligible to provide the information in their area. This will help to contextualise the data reported

This data will then be compared with the number of recruits and staff leavers in April 2023, as reported in the 2023 to 2024 MSIF initial report.

Entering a 0 value is acceptable.

Local authorities are reminded that for 2024 to 2025, the data for the workforce target will be collected via Capacity Tracker and will not require direct reporting by the local authority.

Questions

(1) Please report the total number of recruits in local authority commissioned care providers in the local authority area in April 2024.

19

(2) Please report the total number of staff leaving a job with a local authority commissioned care provider in the local authority area in April 2024.

18

(3a) Please report the number of eligible providers who provided the information relating to the total number of recruits (question 1).

47

(3b) Please report the number of eligible providers who provided the information relating to the total number of staff leaving (question 2).

47

(4) Please report the total number of providers eligible to provide the information.

116

(5) In the text box below, please provide any additional context to your return (Maximum 500 characters).

Enter your response here.

Section 8: Guidance 2024 to 2025

Background and context to 2024 to 2025 initial report

The grant guidance (condition 3, paragraph 1.17) of the 2024 to 2025 Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund stated that local authorities are required to submit an initial report to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). This Initial Report must include:

- confirmation that the local authority's share of MSIF has been allocated in full to adult social care
- confirmation that the local authority's share of the £162m Fair Cost of Care component of the fund has been used to maintain fee uplifts originally made as part of the 2022 to 2023 Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund
- confirmation of which of the three target areas the local authority will be aiming to improve along planned spend on each; and
- reporting against the **fee rate** metrics set out in the 'Activities and Metrics' section of the MSIF Guidance Note (see link above).

The following sections of this template set out the information to be reported as part of the Initial Report for 2024 to 2025. The sections included in the report are as follows:

- **a spend return for the 2024 to 2025 funding:** to confirm that the money will be spent on ASC and how it will be spent across target areas
- **initial reporting metrics on fee rates:** to report provisional average fee rates for 2024 to 2025 across service types
- **initial reporting on waiting times:** since this metric will be collected using Client Level Data (CLD) for 2024 to 2025, this section gives local authorities the option to provide any additional context on this area
- **initial reporting on workforce:** since this metric will be collected using Capacity Tracker (CT) data for 2024 to 2025, this section gives local authorities the option to provide any additional context on this area

Further details on each area can be found in the relevant section.

Section 9: Spend return 2024 to 2025

Instructions/guidance

This spend return asks local authorities to confirm how they plan to spend the money from the 2024 to 2025 MSIF and that it will be used in line with the grant conditions. Further guidance on each question is as follows:

Question 1: No further guidance.

Question 2: Confirmation required to meet that grant condition that all funding be spent on ASC.

Question 3: Confirmation required to meet the grant condition that the 'Fair Cost of Care' portion of funding will be used to maintain fee uplifts.

Question 4: State which target areas the local authority will focus on in 2024 to 2025, regardless of the level of funding used.

Question 5: Report specific amounts spent on each area in 2024 to 2025, reflecting the areas chosen in Question 4. Note that spending on the administrative costs of the fund should not exceed £5,000 in 2024 to 2025.

Question 6: An optional text response giving local authorities the opportunity to explain why they chose different target areas in 2024 to 2025 than 2023 to 2024, if applicable.

Local authorities are reminded that the 2024 to 2025 MSIF grant conditions also set a clear expectation that "the funding provided within this grant is provided on the condition that it is used as part of a substantial increase in planned adult social care spending" and that to monitor this, the department will compare the increase in the 2024 to 2025 Revenue Account (RA) budget for adult social care with the 2022 to 2023 budget, having assumed (unless the local authority shows otherwise) that the following will be allocated to adult social care:

- an appropriate share of the local authority's Social Care Grant allocation for 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025, in line with aggregate use of this funding in previous years;
- the local authority's share of the 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 discharge fund;
- resources raised in 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 from the adult social care precept;
- the local authority's allocation of the 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 Market Sustainability and Improvement fund;
- we also expect local authorities to make use of the increase in income from unhypothecated sources. We expect spending on adult social care will increase by a necessary share of this income.

Questions

(1) Please enter your 2024 to 2025 MSIF allocation.

£6,264,233.00

(2) Please confirm that the 2024 to 2025 MSIF funding has been allocated in full to adult social care.

Yes – the funding has been allocated in full to adult social care

(3) Please confirm that the Fair Cost of Care portion of the funding has been used to maintain fee uplifts originally made as part of the 2022 to 2023 Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund.

Yes – the funding has been used to maintain fee uplifts

(4) Please confirm which of the target areas the local authority has decided to focus on in 2024 to 2025 (note that more than one target area can be chosen).

Increasing fee rates paid to ASC providers:

Yes – we are seeking improvement in this area

Increasing workforce capacity and retention:

No – we are not seeking improvement in this area

Reducing waiting times:

No – we are not seeking improvement in this area

(5) Please confirm your planned spend on each of the target areas in 2024 to 2025 as part of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund.

Total 2024 to 2025 MSIF spending on increasing fee rates*:

£6,264,233.00.

Total 2024 to 2025 MSIF spending on increasing workforce capacity and retention:

£0.00

Total 2024 to 2025 MSIF spending on reducing waiting times:

£0.00

Total 2024 to 2025 spending on administrative costs of fund:

£0.00

Total planned spend in 2024 to 2025:

£6,264,233.00.

*Note that the figure entered for total MSIF spending on fee rates should include **both** the Fair Cost of Care portion of the fund and any additional fee rate spend made using MSIF money.

(6) (Optional) If you have chosen different target areas in 2024 to 2025 than 2023 to 2024, please explain your decision (Maximum 500 characters).

Enter your response here.

Section 10: Fee rates 2024 to 2025

This fee rate collection gives us better and more timely insight into the fee rates paid to external providers. Fee rate data was collected through the MSIF Initial Returns in 2023 to 2024, the Fair Cost of Care process in 2022 to 2023 and the Better Care Fund in earlier years. Local authorities are reminded that as with previous years, fee rate data provided to the department will be published.

Instructions/guidance:

The final 2023 to 2024 average fee rate for each service type will be auto-populated in the section below from the data entered in the 2023 to 2024 Final Report section of this template. We therefore recommend that you complete the 2023 to 2024 Final Report section first before filling out the section below.

These questions cover actual average (mean) fee rates paid by your local authority (gross of client contributions/user charges) to external care providers for your local authority's eligible clients. Specifically, the averages should:

- EXCLUDE any fee rates paid to internal care providers
- EXCLUDE any health care packages which are part funded by Continuing Health Care funding
- EXCLUDE/BE NET OF any amounts that you usually include in reported fee rates but are not paid to care providers. For example, your local authority's own staff costs in managing the commissioning of places
- EXCLUDE/BE NET OF any amounts that are paid from sources other than eligible local authority funding or and client contributions/user charges, i.e. you should exclude third party top-ups, **NHS Funded Nursing Care** and full cost paying clients
- INCLUDE/BE GROSS OF client contributions/user charges
- INCLUDE fees paid under spot and block contracts, fees paid under a dynamic purchasing system, payments for travel time in home care, any allowances for external provider staff training, fees directly commissioned by your local authority and fees commissioned by your local authority as part of a Managed Personal Budget

Questions

(1) Please report your provisional average external fee rate for 2024 to 2025 for the following service types.

*We define 'provisional' as follows: Councils should report a fee rate that best reflects the actual average fee rate (including uplifts) that they expect for the 2024 to 2025 financial year.

Average amount paid to external providers for 18+ home care (£ per contact hour):
£19.30

Average amount paid to external provider care homes without nursing for clients aged 65+ (£ per client per week):
£721.25

Average amount paid to external provider care homes with nursing for clients aged 65+ (£ per client per week):

£942.76

Average amount paid to external provider care homes without nursing for clients aged 18-64 (£ per client per week):

£917.00

Average amount paid to external provider care homes with nursing for clients aged 18-64 (£ per client per week):

£1,349.98

Average amount paid to external provider supported living for clients aged 18+ (£ per blended hour, reflecting core and additional hours):**

£18.24

**Blended denotes weighted average between core and additional hours.

(2) Please detail any other fee uplifts not described by the categories above. If possible, please provide the same information for these other fee uplifts as asked for above. Alternatively, local authorities may wish to provide a link to their published 'rate card' (Maximum 1,000 characters).

We have also provided increases for shared lives and the various elements with direct payments.

For 2024/2025 these are as follows:

- Shared lives 8.53% increase
- Personal assistants 7.64% increase from £12.44 per hour to £13.39 per hour
- Day care (within a DP) 9.65% increase

Section 11: Waiting times 2024 to 2025

Instructions/guidance

As mentioned in the 2024 to 2025 Guidance section, to assess improvements in waiting times, the department will monitor waiting times using the client level data (CLD) submitted for the year 2024 to 2025 as follows:

- DHSC will calculate waiting time metrics based on the average wait for new clients from request or referral to the service starting. The metrics have been designed to calculate waiting times retrospectively for those who receive services. We find a client's first service, find the assessment for the same service type that occurred before the service and then find the request that happened before that
- separate waiting time metrics will be calculated for community care, residential care, nursing care, and short-term care

The department plans to publish average times between request and assessment and request and service, broken down by service type, at local authority level as part of the monthly adult social care statistics publication, as part of future CLD publications.

This waiting time information replaces the previous waiting time information collected as part of the 2023 to 2024 MSIF returns. As it is produced by DHSC on data that local authorities are already reporting via CLD, there is no need for local authorities to report waiting time data for 2024 to 2025 separately in this return.

This reporting template does however give local authorities the opportunity to provide additional context on their waiting time metric, such as activities undertaken to reduce waiting times.

Questions

(1) (Optional) Please provide any additional context on your waiting times return, including the model of care you operate (strengths based, three-conversation approach, and so on) or how you expect your CLD return to influence the metric (Maximum 1,000 characters).

Enter your response here.

Section 11: Workforce 2024 to 2025

Instructions/guidance

As mentioned in the 2024 to 2025 Guidance section, to assess improvements in workforce capacity, DHSC will estimate a metric of workforce growth based on Capacity Tracker data as follows:

- CQC-registered providers report their directly employed headcount in Capacity Tracker every month
- DHSC calculate a workforce growth measure at local authority level, based on the proportional increase in headcount in CQC-registered providers that are registered within the local authority. The raw data is cleaned to remove outliers
- the workforce growth measure is calculated separately for the domiciliary and residential sectors, for each local authority. We will estimate workforce growth between April 2024 and April 2025

This workforce metric replaces the previous workforce information collected as part of the 2023 to 2024 MSIF returns. As it is produced by DHSC based on data that providers are already reporting, there is no need for local authorities to collect their own workforce data from providers as part of the 2024 to 2025 fund.

This reporting template does however give local authorities the opportunity to provide additional context on their workforce reporting, such as activities undertaken to boost workforce capacity and retention.

Questions

(1) (Optional) Please provide additional context on your workforce return (Maximum 1,000 characters).

Enter your response here.