



-  Sarah.Dillon@telford.gov.uk
-  telford.gov.uk
-  facebook.com/TelfordWrekin
-  twitter.com/TelfordWrekin
-  01952 383002

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Our ref: Fee Uplift 2022/2023

Dear Provider Colleagues,

Adults Social Care Fees 2022/2023

This past year has been a challenge to you all in many different ways and before I detail our fee proposals, on behalf of the Council and also the people you care for, I would like to put on record my considerable thanks for all you and your teams do to support us every day in delivering safe, quality care.

The Council has been working with Shropshire Partners in Care and the wider care market to understand the cost pressures you are facing now and in the coming year. Our commissioners have worked with a number of you to carry out surveys and cost of care exercises to help our understanding of your challenges, we have also reviewed the results of the SPIC member's fee survey.

Yesterday, the Council agreed its budget for 2022/23 which set out the commitment to support social care by investing £5.2m additional funding of which £767k will come from the 1% Adults Social Care precept, however there is still a significant budget pressure to the Council overall.

It's important to note that each council area has their own local challenges that impact on their care package availability and subsequently, their rates. The Borough of Telford and Wrekin is a predominantly urban populated area with rural outreach therefore our fee rates for 2022/23 recognise our own individual geographical, financial, and economic position.

The Council will be uplifting **domiciliary care fees rate by 6.6%** and in Borough, older people **care home rates by 3%**. The fees will be uplifted in line with DWP benefit increases on 11th April 2022

In addition to the fee uplift, the Council will continue to offer and support care providers with

- Business support through our Enterprise Hub
- Welfare calls helping interpret the ever changing guidance and supporting with Infection Prevention and Control advice
- Dedicated recruitment campaign with ongoing skills support
- Supporting the use of digital solutions to maximise resources where possible

- Emergency PPE supplies should there be an issue with the DHSC PPE supply portal, which is now in place until March 2023
- Quality assurance support through our multi discipline teams

Domiciliary Care

To help us establish our uplift position, we have reviewed the HCA recommendations, considered provider requests and although there are no standard agreed inflationary indices for social care, have recognised the cost of living inflation, minimum wages and national insurance increases. As a Council, we support the real living wage and would encourage you to do so.

This **6.6%** (rounded to the nearest value divisible by 4 to facilitate fees for 45 min calls) uplift brings our standard Dynamic Purchasing System Domiciliary Care Rate to **£18.12 per hour**. The uplift will be provided to all our providers who are currently delivering in borough, long-term community domiciliary care for Older People, Adults with Learning Disabilities, Supported Living Supported Accommodation, Physical Health and Mental Health needs. The uplift applies to care elements only and not to any core costs associated with supporting living or accommodation.

In Borough Older People Residential, Residential EMI, Nursing and Nursing EMI

In 2018 we levelled prices or agreed fixed costs with our **in Borough Providers** based on their individual circumstances as understood the huge variation in asset liabilities and running costs. Year on year we have increased those levelled or fixed rates. This year **we will lift all current placements by 3%** and the ongoing levelled or fixed fee rate as a contribution towards costs. There is no automatic uplift to out of borough providers.

Adults with Learning Difficulties, Mental Health and Physical Disabilities - Residential and Nursing

The Council is working with our ALD MH & PD providers using Care Cubed to carry out a cost of care exercise which started last autumn and is ongoing. This approach is ensuring an open, transparent and collaborative way of understanding cost pressures and resetting fee rates therefore, these service are is not subject to a blanket uplift

Waking Nights & Sleep Ins

A waking night will receive the same uplift as the standard domiciliary care rate of 6.6%. The Council has very few sleep ins and as such these are reviewed and negotiated on an individual based on their circumstances. There is no planned uplift to current sleep ins.

Day Care

Commissioners are currently planning a review working with our Day Centre providers to understand their offer and work with them to support delivery of services to meet the diversifying need. We are therefore going to be working with these providers to understand their cost pressures rather than applying an overall uplift.

Joint Funded Packages

The Council holds a number of care packages that are jointly funded by Shropshire Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group. We have shared our intention to uplift our packages by 6.6% and 3% with our CCG Colleagues but do not have confirmation that they will match this so, at present, this uplift only applies to the social care funded aspect of the care package.

Enablement Care

The Enablement contracts are managed through a Joint Funding Agreement with the CCG and therefore are not part of the Council's annual uplift process and are being reviewed separately.

The Fair Cost of Care exercise

We are working closely with SPIC and regional colleagues to start the process of the national Fair Cost of Care Exercise¹ in the steps towards 'preparing care markets for reform'. In summary, the Council must:

- A published cost of care exercise – determining sustainable fee rates and how close the LA (Local Authority) is to these (taking account of pay and travel time, appropriate return on capital or operations) – with emphasis on 65+ residential and domiciliary care.
- Produce a provisional market sustainability plan – a local strategy for the next 3 years (2022-25) indicating the direction and pace of change towards new models of care and including how the LA is strengthening its capacity to plan for and execute greater market oversight and improved market management to ensure delivery of the reform ambitions.
- A spend report – how much money is being allocated to achieve a more sustainable local market.

Many of you have already started to engage with us around this project and have seen the LGA Toolkit that we will use with you to specifically review the cost of domiciliary care. There will also be an opportunity to use the tool for care home rates later in the spring. Although this exercise is mandated by government, it does not guarantee fee uplifts but does signpost to government what the market needs to be sustainable going forward and therefore is vital that you engage in this process with us in coming months. We will be considering the use of funding provided for the reforms to support you with this participation.

Finally, please again accept my thanks and appreciation for the care and support you and you colleagues provide to the residents of our Borough.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Dillon
Director: Adult Social Care (DASS)

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/market-sustainability-and-fair-cost-of-care-fund-2022-to-2023/market-sustainability-and-fair-cost-of-care-fund-purpose-and-conditions-2022-to-2023>