

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 September 2021
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Rates and Charges for Care Services for 2021/2022
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update Committee with the 2021/2022 Rates and Charges for Care Services

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the revised rates and associated arrangements to Residential and Nursing care rates, as detailed in Section 4 of the report be noted;
- (2) that the revised charges to Nursing and Residential Respite charges as detailed in Section 5 of the report be noted;
- (3) that the revised rates and associated arrangements for Care at Home, Supported Living and Day Care, as detailed in Section 6 of the report be noted; and
- (4) that the arrangements for Non-residential charges, as detailed in Section 7 of the report be noted.

3. Background

3.1. Each year, Social Work Resources require to confirm the rates and charges which will be adopted for Residential, Nursing, Supported Living, Non-residential Care Services and Care at Home Services. The rates which will be charged to other local authorities for Care Services must also be set.

3.2. In recognition of the need to implement contractual uplifts in 2021/2022 without delay to providers, Social Work Resources Committee of 17 March 2021 agreed delegated authority for the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) and Director, Health and Social Care to approve the following rates:

- ◆ Care at Home, Supported Living, Day Care and Integrated Care Facilities
- ◆ Residential and Nursing Care through National Care Home Contract
- ◆ Residential services outwith National Care Home Contract

3.3. In response to the Covid-19 emergency, Scottish Government and COSLA have recommended a national living wage uplift for contractual hourly rates paid to adult social care providers.

4. Residential and Nursing Care Rates

- 4.1. Scotland Excel, Scottish Care, and the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) have undertaken a review of the 2021/2022 fee levels associated with providing Nursing and Residential care for older people in Scotland.
- 4.2. The National Care Home Rate for Nursing care was set at £762.20 (3% increase) per week in April 2021 and subsequently revised in June 2021 to £763.68, to reflect the increased nursing pay settlement of 4%. Residential care was set at £653.79 per week (2.83% increase) and is not subject to further variation for the nursing pay settlement. Both rates are effective from 12 April 2021. These rates will also be adopted for the in-house Residential care homes to ensure equity for all residents within in-house and private sector care homes. This will also form the basis for the charge to other local authorities that have placed users within the in-house care homes.
- 4.3. Each resident's financial contribution towards their residential care costs is based on assessment of their ability to pay in line with the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) (Scotland) Regulations 1992, as amended.
- 4.4. The Free Personal and Nursing Care Payment rates are revised annually by the Scottish Government. Rates increased to £193.50 per week for personal care and £87.10 per week for Nursing care from 1 April 2021.
- 4.5. In accordance with the national uplift set by the Scottish Government and COSLA, adult Residential care rates will be uplifted by 2.2%.
- 4.6. It is proposed to continue to adopt the COSLA agreement to accept, for placements outwith South Lanarkshire, the rates set and agreed by the relevant host authority where applicable.
- 4.7. The Council is not bound by statute to set a rate for the provision of residential accommodation for children, however, a charge is set to allow the Council to recover the cost of placements by other local authorities. Charges to other local authorities will increase to £2,684 per place per week, effective from 1 April 2021. This increase will have no impact on service users within South Lanarkshire.

5. Nursing and Residential Respite Charges

- 5.1. The National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992 state that for the first eight weeks of respite, authorities should charge "the amount it appears reasonable to the local authorities for the resident to pay".
- 5.2. In deciding what is "reasonable", authorities should consider the individual's outgoing expenses and commitments at home. The Nursing and Residential Respite charge is, therefore, based on the standard minimum guaranteed income less personal allowance and increases in-line with the Department for Work and Pensions increases in state benefits.
- 5.3. Nursing and Residential Respite charge for older people will be increased by £2.80 to £147.80 per week, effective from April 2021, in-line with the Department for Work and Pensions' increase.

5.4. The increase to the Nursing and Residential Respite charge will be met by the net increase in Department for Work and Pensions' benefits available to individuals. This practice is consistent with the approach adopted in previous years.

5.5. Nursing and Residential Respite charge for adults remains unchanged for 2021/2022 at £84.45 per week.

6. Care at Home, Supported Living and Day Care Rates

6.1. In recognition of ongoing response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Scottish Government and COSLA have recommended a national uplift of 2.2% for 2021/2022 to alleviate the pressure of local negotiation on both Councils and providers at this time.

6.2. The rate paid by the Council for Care at Home, Supported Living and Day Care will therefore increase to £17.46 per hour (increase of £0.38, 2.2%) effective from 1 April 2021. An uplift of £0.26 (2.2%) is proposed for sleepover rates to increase this to a standard rate of £11.81 per hour.

6.3. The Care at Home framework rate is currently adopted for South Lanarkshire Council's in-house Home Care Service. This ensures equity for all service users receiving a Care at Home Service, therefore, this rate will also increase to £17.46 per hour.

6.4. The Council will continue to adopt the COSLA agreement to accept, for services provided outwith South Lanarkshire, the rates set and agreed by the relevant host authority where applicable.

7. Non Residential Care Service Charges

7.1. The charging policy for Non-Residential Care Services continues to be based on an assessment of the service user's ability to pay towards the cost of care.

7.2. In-line with previous years, the charging policy in respect of Non-residential Care Services will be amended to reflect the thresholds recommended by COSLA for 2021/2022, effective from April 2021. If the income of service users falls below this threshold, no contribution would be required.

7.3. In arriving at the contribution payable by users towards the cost of their Care Services, a calculation is completed to determine their assessable income to which a percentage taper is then applied. This then determines the maximum level of contribution that service users will make. The level of the percentage taper is set by the Council and will remain at 60% for 2021/2022.

8. Employee Implications

8.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

9. Financial Implications

9.1. The additional expenditure associated with the increase in rates across the various categories detailed in the report will be met from Integrated Joint Board (IJB) funding allocations. Additional income generated as a result of the increase in charges for other local authorities will offset the increases in the cost of service delivery.

10. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

10.1. There are no Climate Change, sustainability or environmental implications resulting from this report.

11. Other Implications

11.1. There is a risk that service users may refuse to receive the Care Services which they have been assessed as requiring as a result of an increase in the charge for those services. Effective risk management arrangements are an integral part of the delivery of Social Care Services and all clients will undergo a risk assessment. The Director has discretion to exercise her authority in terms of the Social Work Scotland Act 1968 to abate or waive charges on a case by case basis where a service user, due to their financial circumstances, has difficulty in meeting the approved cost of the service.

11.2. There are no issues in respect of sustainable development arising from this report.

11.3. There are no other issues arising from this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

12.1. There are no requirements to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

12.2. There was no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained within this report.

Soumen Sengupta
Director, Health and Social Care

23 July 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ◆ Deliver better Health and Social Care outcomes for all
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

Previous References

- ◆ Social Work Resources Committee of 17 March 2021

List of Background Papers

- ◆ none

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Ian Beattie, Head of Health and Social Care

Ext: 3701 (Phone: 01698 453701)

Email: ian.beattie@southlanarkshire.gov.uk