

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 May 2020
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Rates and Charges for Care Services for 2020/2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- request Committee approval for the 2020/2021 Rates and Charges for Care Services

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the implementation of the revised rates and associated arrangements to residential and nursing care rates, as detailed in section 4 of the report, be approved;
- (2) that the implementation of revised charges to nursing and residential respite charges as detailed in section 5 of the report be approved;
- (3) that the implementation of the revised rates and associated arrangements for care at home, supported living and day care, as detailed in section 6 of the report, be approved; and
- (4) that the implementation of the revised rates for non-residential charges and associated arrangements, as detailed in section 7 of the report, be approved.

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. The Council's Social Care providers face unprecedented operational and financial challenges in responding to Covid-19 and support will be provided in accordance with Scottish Government guidance and the principle of provider support set out by COSLA. The Council will also respond to Scottish Government and COSLA guidance in respect of charging arrangements for supported persons. It is anticipated that the financial impacts of Covid-19 will continue to emerge during financial year 2020/2021 and the Council will be responsive in considering support measures for providers.
- 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. The Council's approach to this uplift is set out in section 6 of the report.

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 2020/2021 fee levels associated with providing nursing and residential care for older people in Scotland.
- 4.2. Scotland Excel confirmed in April 2020 that agreement had been reached with Scottish Care and CCPS. The rate for nursing care will increase by 3.51% to £740.00 per week and the rate for residential care will increase by 3.54% to £635.79 per week. 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 an 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 will increase to £180 per week for personal care and £81 per week for nursing care from 1 April 2020.
- 4.5. It is proposed to increase the current rates for adult residential care up to a maximum of 3.54%.
- 4.6. It is proposed to continue to adopt the COSLA agreement to accept, for placements out with 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. It is, therefore, proposed to increase charges to other local authorities to £2,644 per place per week, effective from 1 April 2020. 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. It is proposed to increase the nursing and residential respite charge for older people by £5.50 to £145.00 per week, effective from 1 April 2020, 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. It is proposed that the nursing and residential respite charge for adults remains unchanged for 2020/2021 at £84.45 per week.

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

- 6.1. In recognition of the Covid-19 emergency response, Scottish Government and COSLA have recommended a national pay uplift of 3.3% for 2020/2021 to alleviate the pressure of local negotiation on both Councils and providers at this time. However, the Council had already planned budgeted rates for social care services reflecting the increase in Living Wage to £9.30 per hour and other associated provider costs at an overall increased rate of 4.1% (4.5% for sleepovers). As this uplift has been included in the Health and Social Care budget, it is recommended that the Council proceeds with the planned uplift, which exceeds the Scottish Government recommendation.
- 6.2. The rate paid by the Council for care at home, supported living and day care will therefore increase to £17.08 per hour (increase of £0.67, 4.1%) effective from 1 April 2020. An uplift of £0.50 (4.5%) is proposed for sleepover rates to increase this to a standard rate of £11.55 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, it is proposed that this rate is also increased to £17.08 per hour.
- 6.4. It is proposed to 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, it is also proposed that the charging policy in respect of non-residential Care Services be amended to reflect the thresholds recommended by COSLA for 2020/2021, effective from 1 April 2020. 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 2020/2021.

- 7.4. The following flat rate charges are determined by the Council's corporate Charging Policy and provided for information only:

Service	2020/2021 Rate	Status
Lunch Clubs	£3.08 per meal	Increase of 2.8%
Frozen meals	£3.19 per meal	Contractual price agreed by Scotland Excel effective from May 2020
Community Alarm	£1.63 per week	Increase of 2.8%

- 7.5. A rate for non-residential Care Services requires to be set to allow other local authorities using South Lanarkshire Council's services to be charged. It is proposed to increase charges to other local authorities by £1, effective from 1 April 2020. This will have no impact on service users within South Lanarkshire. The relevant rates are detailed below:

Service	2020/2021 Rate
Integrated community facilities	£121 per day
Day care centres	£136 per day

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 existing revenue budgets. 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 implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in 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 other issues arising from this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

12.1. There are no requirements to carry out an 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.

Val de Souza
Director, Health and Social Care

24 April 2020

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- Deliver better health and social care outcomes for all
- Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- Fair, open and sustainable

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

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

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