

Care and Support provider Fee review 2022 -2023

15 February 2022

Purpose

Council duty to ensure care needs of residents in Wolverhampton are met

- Part of this includes reviewing the sufficiency of externally commissioned care services and whether the current fees enable provision of care and for the Council to purchase them and inform an annual review of fees

Scope

Covers all externally commissioned care services (apart from block contracts with pre existing agreements) this year taking into account:

- Cost or resource impact for provider – such as national living wage increases with on costs, inflation, the impact of COVID-19
- How Wolverhampton fee's compare to other comparable areas (available benchmarking is in appendix 2)
- How the market is managing (are we able to purchase care at the current rates and meet need - sufficiency) Appendix 3 provides the number of hours or placements of care provided by the external market during 2021 to and internally we have reviewed data from 2020.
- Provider engagement and feedback - provider forums, virtual sessions, offer to provide feedback by email etc

Care provision in Wolverhampton

- Home care
- Direct payments
- Residential and nursing care homes for older people
- Residential and nursing with dementia care homes for older people
- Extra care schemes
- Supported living
- Under 65's residential and nursing homes
- Community activities for older people
- Community opportunities for adults with complex needs

For noting

- National picture
- Continued impact of COVID-19 (vacancy levels)
- Grant funding to end
- Locally competing job sectors – hospitality, retail and factory (Amazon)
- Hospital discharge levels and demand to social care to support discharge likely to continue at the same rate
- Mid year increase for Home Care in 2021 to maintain sufficiency
- New rate for Direct Payment Self Employed to be introduced

Recommendations for Cabinet Resources Panel

- Recommendations based on meeting care needs and supporting a robust external market
- The financial cost to implement will be met from Adults Services care purchasing.
- The Council's Final Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2022-2023 to 2025-2026 which will be presented to Cabinet on 23 February and Full Council on 2 March 2022 includes growth for Adult Services which will include the funds for the proposed fee review

Future Fee Reviews

The Government Fair of Cost of Care Policy and the Health and Social Care Bill will need to be considered as part of the fee review. This includes the requirement to:

- Develop a fair cost of care tool to demonstrate how self funders costs are aligned to the fees funded by the Council
- Develop a sustainability plan for external care provision