

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**

**DECISION OF: DIRECTOR, PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
WITH ADVICE FROM: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING, FINANCE BUSINESS
PARTNER (PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES) AND S151 OFFICER
DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**



DECISION NO:

PC117 (2019/20 scheme)

SUBJECT:

Temporary fee uplifts for Adult Social Care providers

KEY DECISION:

Yes

REASON:

Significant financial impact.

BACKGROUND:

The immediate impact of the current crisis for care providers is both complex and significant, and in the absence of a nationally mandated support, ASC Departments are required to consider local responses in line with advice from LGA/ADASS proposed recommendations, of increase of c10%. There is therefore a lot of anxiety around additional costs incurred by providers in ensuring safe systems in this crisis. There are several different strategies emerging from recent ADASS discussions with authorities ranging from 5 to 10 per cent. Via the BNSSG Care Provider Cell we have sought to reach as much agreement across the four commissioning authorities (CCG commissions CHC and End of Life Care). The proposal above is likely to be recommended by Bristol City Council and one of two options being considered by South Gloucestershire Council (the second is a straight ten per cent). The CCG position is unknown.

DECISION:

To implement a temporary increase to adult care provider fees as follows and for the period 6 April 2020 to 31 May 2020, with a review in May to determine any further payments where necessary:

- A flat rate increase of £100 per week on all care home placements made by NSC
- An increase of £1 per hour on all domiciliary care including Extra Care, Reablement and Supported Living;

and

- An agreement that where Direct Payment service users continue to pay for support even when they are unable to receive it (e.g. self-isolation or sickness) that the service users should not have to make their usual contribution to the cost.

This represents an estimated equivalent of an overall increase of 8.75% with a weekly cost of £143,962, or £1.871m over a twelve-week period.

The payment to be paid as a temporary Exceptional Special Need to distinguish this does not constitute a formal increase in relation to the individual care package.

Officers are asked to seek a financial contribution from the CCG to the above increase to reflect the additional NHS responsibilities undertaken by care providers during this period.

REASONS:

To reflect guidance provided by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS) and recognising the significant additional costs being incurred by care providers during the COVID-19.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

A simple 10% increase was considered, but a differentiated approach to reflect the different costs being felt by different provider types was felt to be more appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

These increases lead to additional costs in the region of £143,962 per week, or c. £1.152m for the 8-week period referred to in the decision.

The costs are intended to be funded from the £5.9m COVID-19 emergency grant paid to the Council at the beginning of April. However, it is worth noting that additional costs and loss of income for the period of disruption are likely to far exceed this initial allocation from government and Councils have not yet been given any reassurance from central government about the availability of further funding.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a duty to support the care market and ensure capacity and sustainability.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

CONSULTATION

Discussions have taken place with care providers.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The main risk, as described above, relates to affordability, given the value of the initial grant made available to the Council by central government.

The Council also commissions packages of care on behalf of the CCG and they will need to agree any increases to those prices.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? ~~Yes~~ / No.

The proposals are likely to have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics in that they should help support and maintain capacity in the care market.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None, other than those already highlighted.

APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter from LGA / ADASS.

This decision is being taken under the urgency/emergency powers provided in the officer delegations in the Constitution – General Director powers para 2.2:

To take emergency action on behalf of the Council on any matter in cases of urgency or emergency with, wherever possible, prior consultation with the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Member and the Chairman of the appropriate Policy and Scrutiny Panel or Committee and Subject to a report as soon as possible afterwards to the appropriate body.

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER:



Signed:

(Email from Director confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature attached)

Title: Director of People and Communities

Date: 30.4.20

Consultees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ewa'.

Signed:

(Email from Chief Executive confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature attached)

Title: Chief Executive

Date: 6.5.20

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike Bell'.

Signed:

(Email from Executive Member confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature attached)

Title: Executive Member for Adult Care and Health

Date: 4.5.20

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Bell'.

Signed:

(Email from Chairman confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature attached)

Title: Chairman of Adult Services and Housing Policy & Scrutiny Panel

Date: 6.5.20

WITH ADVICE FROM:

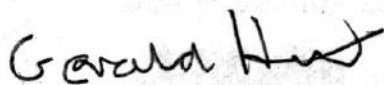


Signed:

(Email from Finance Business Partner confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature provided).

Title: Finance Business Partner (People and Communities)

Date: 30.4.20



Signed:

(Email from Head of Commissioning confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature provided).

Title: Head of Commissioning

Date: 30.4.20



Signed:

(Email from S151 Officer confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature provided).

Title: s151 Officer

Date: 04.05.20



PC117 Jo Walker
authority to sign.msg



PC117 Cllr Crosby



PC117 Cllr Bell



PC117 Richard



PC117 Sheila

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