

Residential and Nursing Care Fees

Fee Notification to Providers for 2019/20

Leicestershire County Council has, over the last 18 months, undertaken a thorough review of its Residential and Nursing Care fees, contractual arrangements, and commissioning approach. This review entailed the commissioning of an independent consultant to assess the cost of care in Leicestershire and make recommendations, which the Council has accepted, about the level at which fees should be set in order to represent a fair cost for care. The review has also entailed provider input via a reference group and a two-stage consultation process, which has shaped our proposals.

On 25 June 2019, the Council's Cabinet accepted the recommendations set out in the fee review and therefore the new arrangements that will come into effect are summarised below:

Band rates for Leicestershire providers for 2019/20 will be as follows:

Residential - £579 per week

Residential Plus - £638 per week

Working Age Adult (progression) - £727 per week

For Older Adults, where there are additional needs not considered in the band rates a Supplementary Needs Allowance (SNA) payment will be made at a rate of £11.81 per hour.

For Working Age Adults, where there are additional needs not considered in the band rate, the cost of care will be calculated using the Care Funding Calculator.

Payment of the bands will be backdated to Monday 8 April 2019

Out of County Placements

The Council will continue with its current practice of paying fees at the host Local Authority rate, or for higher cost cases at a negotiated bespoke rate. In circumstances where the host Local Authority backdates fee increases or payments, the Council will match those fees in the current financial year only.

Annual inflationary reviews

A blended rate, based on the Average Weekly Earning Services rate (adjusted for pension increases) and the Consumer Price Index, will be used to increase the band fees each year for a period of three years. The rates for 2019/20 were obtained by applying that inflationary uplift, 3.12%, to the rates proposed in the consultation. The Average Weekly Earning Services rate (adjusted for pension increases) will be used

to increase the SNA rate each year. The SNA rate for 2019/20 was obtained by applying that inflationary uplift, 3.96%, to the SNA rate proposed in the consultation.

Core Contract and Schedules

Following the fee review consultation, the Core Contract and all its schedules have been updated and will be issued to each provider for signature. The voluntary Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) payments will cease from 15 July 2019. This brings the contract up to date with current changes in legislation. The specification has been updated to be more in line with CQC good standards.

Implementation

In the coming days an updated Core Contract will be sent to all providers. Transition of existing service users to the new fee structure will be undertaken with each provider when the signed Core Contract is returned.

At that point the provider will receive a schedule detailing the proposed new rates for each service user. It is anticipated that most cases will be agreed and transferred quickly. The provider will have the option to query any individual cases and there is a dispute process if needed.

If you need any further information, please email feereview@leics.gov.uk