

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

TITLE:*	Adult Social Care Services Annual Fee Uplift																	
Decision Taken By:	Mark Fitton, Strategic Director, Adults and Communities (DASS)																	
Cabinet Member	Richard Morris, Cabinet Member with Responsibility Adult Social Care																	
Decision Made*	<p>To record annual fee review decisions for Adult Social Care services (home care and residential settings) following engagement and consultation with all providers.</p> <p>Funding for the uplifts has been built into the 2025/26 revenue budget as approved by Council in February 2025.</p> <p>The uplifts approved are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SERVICE</th> <th>Fee increase based on:</th> <th>ESTIMATED COST (£m)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domiciliary care</td> <td> To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Tier 3 by 3.7%; Increase the IFDC rate by 6%; Not increase the Tier 4 rate; Not increase Spot purchased care rates; Not increase 24*7 live-in rates; and, Not increase rural premiums. Sub-total </td> <td>£1,651,597</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extra Care</td> <td> To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the fees by 3.0% for people with less than 21 hours or care; and, Increase the fees by 9% for people with more than 21 hours of care Sub-total </td> <td>£169,146</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supported Living</td> <td> To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a 6% increase to the tier prices for providers on the DPS; Increase the sleep-in component of fees by 1.0%; and, Apply no universal increase for packages not purchased under the 2023-2026 Supported Living DPS Sub-total </td> <td>£2,613,063</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shared Lives</td> <td>To increase all care packages by 3.5% Sub-total</td> <td>£56,825</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			SERVICE	Fee increase based on:	ESTIMATED COST (£m)	Domiciliary care	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Tier 3 by 3.7%; Increase the IFDC rate by 6%; Not increase the Tier 4 rate; Not increase Spot purchased care rates; Not increase 24*7 live-in rates; and, Not increase rural premiums. Sub-total	£1,651,597	Extra Care	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the fees by 3.0% for people with less than 21 hours or care; and, Increase the fees by 9% for people with more than 21 hours of care Sub-total	£169,146	Supported Living	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a 6% increase to the tier prices for providers on the DPS; Increase the sleep-in component of fees by 1.0%; and, Apply no universal increase for packages not purchased under the 2023-2026 Supported Living DPS Sub-total	£2,613,063	Shared Lives	To increase all care packages by 3.5% Sub-total	£56,825
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	65+ Residential care / nursing care	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase long-term DPS placements by 4.5%; Increase long-term placement made via spot purchases by 2%; and, Increase the capped DPS rate for short term placements by 2%. Sub-total	£1,591,228
	Under 65 residential care / nursing care	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uplift packages who were awarded a fee uplift in 2024/25 by 6.0%; and, Providers not awarded an increase in 2024/25 will need to complete the care costing template and evidence that an uplift is required for the opportunity to be awarded up to 6.0% Sub-total	£2,147,071
	Day Services	To increase the upper pricing limits in the Positive Days contract by up to 4.8% for standard day services and up to 6% for highly specialist day services.	£344,000
	Contingency	Held for case-by-case needs	£904,069
	TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS OF ABOVE UPLIFTS		£9,476,999
Is this Report Exempt as per Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	No		
Decision taken under the following delegation:	The Strategic Director, Adults and Communities is implementing the fee increases in line with his general duties as laid out within the Officers Scheme of Delegation, which is part of the Scheme of Assignment of Responsibility for Functions, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Council's Constitution 2025 02 APPENDIX 1 Delegations - Update.pdf		
Division(s) Affected	All divisions across the County where clients reside.		
Date of Decision*	28 March 2025		
Summary of Decision*	To utilise in full the budget as allocated for the review of fees paid to adult social care providers as per the response below		
Reason(s) For Decision*	<p>Annually, Worcestershire County Council reviews fees in line with contract, based on an assessment of care need, market forces and the Councils ability to pay.</p> <p>The Council still has the ability to review fees on a case-by-case basis where required, where care needs change.</p>		

<p>Alternative Options Considered and Rejected</p>	<p>Council values the care provided to our residents by providers. The current emphasis nationally, regionally and locally is around the increased demand and requirement for care in the home rather than in residential settings, based on client choice and the improved outcomes of maintaining supported independent living.</p> <p>By not taking this decision, Worcestershire Health and Care system would have become severely compromised.</p>
<p>Summary of any financial implications</p>	<p>The figures in this report are based on information of clients in service at the time of calculation. £9.477m of budget has been identified for 2025/26 to fund increase in fees payable to external care providers.</p>
<p>Summary of any legal implications</p>	<p>The Care Act 2014 places a duty on councils to “promote the efficient and effective operation of a market in services for meeting care and support needs.” In delivering this statutory obligation, councils must ensure the sustainability of the market and that there are sufficient high quality services available to meet the care and support needs of adults in their area. The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget.</p> <p>The authority is satisfied it has and continues to perform its duties under s5 Care Act 2014 in promoting the efficient and effective operation of a market in services for meeting care and support needs with a view to ensuring that any person in its area wishing to access services in the market has a wide variety of providers and high-quality services to choose from.</p>
<p>Consultation process and results</p>	<p>Commissioners engaged with the care markets to seek information in relation to the impact of the annual statement in December/ January 2024/5 and then took the fee uplift proposals to the markets in February 2025, invited comments via a questionnaire and via formal letter if preferred. Providers were also invited to put forward issues (other than fees) that would assist in the running of their organisations. The responses have been analysed and presented to the Directorate with opportunities for some small changes to the original proposals in line with that feedback. These changes are now embedded in the uplifts within this document and providers will be formally notified of the outcomes and actions that have already been drawn up in relation to the “non-fee” suggestions. This notification will be issued no later than 31 March 2025.</p>
<p>Equality duty Implications</p>	<p>The JIA screening did not identify any potential considerations requiring further assessment during implementation – these uplifts are a contractual requirement for the payment of fees for services that have undergone full assessment.</p>
<p>Social Value Implications</p>	<p>None – this relates to the payment of fees to contracted providers delivering services.</p>
<p>Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet</p>	<p>None known or identified</p>

Member/ any dispensation granted*	
Background documents*	 2025-26 Day Services fee consultation - FIN.  2025-26 Domiciliary Care fee consultation  2025-26 Extra Care fee consultation  2025-26 OP fee consultation - FINAL.p  2025-26 Shared Lives fee consultation - FIN.  2025-26 Supported Living fee consultation  2025-26 U65 Res Care fee consultation
Signature	
Reference/Date Published	For use by Democratic Services only
Monitoring Officer Review needed	Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

*Legal Requirement