

Decision Report – Cabinet Member Key decision
22/04/2020

Provider Premium Payments to Support Covid-19 Response

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr David Huxtable Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Division and Local Member(s): All

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Summary:	<p>To support the Adult Social Care market with their response to the Covid-19 outbreak it is proposed that a one-off payment totalling the equivalent of a 10% increase in fees for a 3-month period for all personal care provision across homecare and residential/nursing care. This includes all Learning Disability and Mental Health services in these categories.</p> <p>This payment will be made up front and in full to support both company cash flow and ongoing costs associated with the pandemic, in line with government guidance.</p> <p>The payments will total £3.0m and are to be funded from the central government COVID-19 Emergency Funding for Local Government grant provided to support local authorities with their response to the outbreak.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care agrees:</p> <p>a one-off payment to each provider of Social Care as stated above to support the market during this unprecedented period</p>
Reasons for Recommendations:	<p>Somerset wishes to maintain and continue to improve the high standards of care provision that it currently enjoys, this means keeping pace with legislative costs as well as ensuring that staff are fairly rewarded. It wishes to value the social care sector and those who work within it, seeking to recognise the vital role it plays in keeping people healthy and independent and supporting people at home. In order to support this Somerset recognises the additional cost burdens that COVID19 has brought including provision of PPE, additional staff costs and response times.</p> <p>We will continue the support (which has been recognised nationally) that we have already provided. This has included helping to staff homes, taking calls for advice and keeping in</p>

	<p>touch with the sector regularly via our new website, as well as sourcing and distributing our own PPE aside from the government supply chain. SCC has also already made many payments to providers including day care. We are ad will continue to pay higher fees levels for complex and rapid hospital discharge.</p> <p>It should also be remembered, that unlike other LA's, Somerset had already agreed a substantial uplift for fee levels for 2020/21 and this is in excess of those uplifts.</p>						
<p>Links to County Vision, Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy:</p>	<p>Links to the County Vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping vulnerable and elderly people • Giving people the choices, they want • Keep vulnerable and elderly people safe. 						
<p>Consultations and co-production undertaken:</p>	<p>The recommended 10% increase to Local Authority fees is in line with recommendations made by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).</p>						
<p>Financial Implications:</p>	<p>Funding for the one-off payments will be from the COVID-19 Emergency Funding for Local Government.</p>						
<p>Legal Implications:</p>							
<p>HR Implications:</p>	<p>None</p>						
<p>Risk Implications:</p>	<p>The outbreak continues for a period longer than 3 months and additional funding needing to be identified to support the market. We will review this decision and future impacts in early June.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Likelihood</td> <td>2</td> <td>Impact</td> <td>2</td> <td>Risk Score</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	Likelihood	2	Impact	2	Risk Score	4
Likelihood	2	Impact	2	Risk Score	4		
<p>Other Implications (including due regard implications):</p>	<p>Sustainability – An agreed corporate process is already in place and regularly reviewed to provide continued care of residents should care homes be unable to continue trading. This is part of our Safeguarding Adults policy and care home urgent closure checklist.</p>						
<p>Scrutiny comments / recommendation (if any):</p>							

1. Background

- 1.1.** A one-off payment will be made to each provider of Social Care in Somerset based on the average local authority payments made over the past 3 periods. This average will be inflated to 2020/21 prices first and then have a 10% premium added. The payment made will be the equivalent of 3 months funding.
- 1.2.** This 10% premium is in excess of and based on the already uplifted fees for 2020/21. It therefore represents a c.17% increase in 2019/20 fee levels for SCC Homecare providers as an example.
- 1.3.** We have already stated that it is our intention for Direct Payment recipients to continue to fund their service even if they are not attending or it is not being provided in the same way. Should they require additional support this will be funded separately and by SCC. This ensures that providers who are reliant on such income and funding continue to receive it.
- 1.4.** Other government support is available for businesses and providers can also explore those options.
- 1.5.** All additional payments are based on SCC contractual arrangements and payments as per the guidance on uplifting Local Authority fees.
- 1.6.** This support applies to Learning Disability and Mental Health providers including supported living but excludes day-care. Day-care organisations continue to be funded in most cases despite not being open and we welcome individual conversations with any provider affected in those sectors.
- 1.7.** This support does not preclude providers of social care from seeking further assistance in the event of supply, emergency care or sustainability issues. SCC is committed to an open book approach and realises that some circumstance and impacts differ across the sector.