

Market Update – Increase in ASC Provider Rates 2023/2024

Dear Providers

In accordance with our three year strategic approach, The Council has agreed for 2023/24 to proceed with a minimum commitment to a 2% uplift across all Adult Social Care markets' standard fee rates. The Council has also agreed to fund additional uplifts to home care/community based market sectors including domiciliary care, supported living and personal assistants. These uplifted fee rates will apply from 1st April 2023, and are detailed further in the update below.

Uplift Context

In March 2022, as part of a three year strategic approach The Council implemented the agreed increase in rates of 1.5% for Residential & Nursing, Community Based Services Framework, Supported Living provision, Direct Payments, and a small number of providers where it is contractually required to increase rates. In addition the Market Sustainability and Improvement grant provided further funds allowing for a net 3.8% uplifts to home care market sectors. This equated to £2,211,646 investment, providing an overall uplift to the adult social care market of 2.65%.

The Council appreciates the pressures across our health and social care services and recognises the challenges to staff retention and recruitment. To support the Community Based Service (CBS) provider market we will continue to pay fortnightly and by support plan value, to assist financial stability and improve cash flow for providers. The mandate allowing providers flexibility to prioritise resources as a one off day to day change to meet existing service users' needs will also remain. The Council is progressing plans for the cessation of the existing call monitoring system.

The Council remains cognisant of the ongoing financial pressures being experienced by providers resulting from the National Living Wage and the general inflationary trends nationally and globally. Against this, The Council must consider the need to find council wide savings for 2023/24 of £15.71m to maintain a balanced budget, as it is illegal for The Council to knowingly commit expenditure beyond its means, or authority to spend.

Rates applicable from 1st April 2023

The rates shown below will be effective from 1st April 2023 unless otherwise stated.

Older Persons and Mental Health over 65 Residential and Nursing

The Council is awarding an uplift of 2% to standard fee rates. The 2% uplift will only be applied up to the maximum value of the new standard fee rates for 2023/24.

Care	Rate per Resident per Week 2022/2023 (rate)	Rate per Resident per Week 2023/2024 (new rate)
Older Person Residential	£523.85	£534.33
Older Person Residential EMI	£591.51	£603.34
Older Persons Nursing (Excl FNC)	£614.06	£626.34
Older Persons Nursing EMI (Excl FNC)	£690.95	£704.77

Additional Payments / Top ups

If you are currently in receipt of additional payments or top ups from The Council then it will be the standard rate above which will receive the uplift. Any additional payments will not be uplifted.

For example:

If a placement for 'Older People Residential' which in 2022/2023 was £523.85 per week received a top up to take the overall price paid by The Council to £612.85 per week the following calculations would apply:

Year	Standard rate (per week)	Additional payment/top up	Weekly total
2022/2023	£523.85	£89.00	£612.85 per week
2023/2024	£534.33 (uplift applied)	£89.00 (no change)	£623.32 per week

Complex Care Residential & Nursing and Specialist Mental Health

There is no scheduled increase in fee rates for complex care as these are subject to individual negotiation.

Out of borough service providers

If your care home is located outside the Borough of Walsall and you are currently receiving the 'Walsall Council rate' (in the table above) you will receive the increase as set out in this letter. If you are currently paid in line with your host Local Authority's rate this will continue.

If you are currently paid in line with your host Local Authority rate and this has been subject to change, please supply a copy of the written confirmation of the new rate from your host local authority, which will be forwarded to our colleagues in Adult Social Care for consideration.

Reablement and Rapid Response

The Council is increasing the minimum hourly rate by 4.06% from £16.16 to £16.81 per hour.

If you currently receive more than £16.81 then this will not change and no uplift will be applied.

Community Based Services (CBS) Framework – Older People, Complex, Mental Health Functional and Mental Health Dementia

The Council is increasing the minimum hourly rate by 4.06% from £16.16 to £16.81 per hour.

If you currently receive more than £16.81 per hour, then this will not change and no uplift will be applied.

The 2023/2024 Minimum Domiciliary Care rate is:

Banding	2022/23	2023/24
15 minutes (paid as 20)	£5.39	£5.60
30 minutes	£8.08	£8.41
45 minutes	£12.12	£12.61
60 minutes	£16.16	£16.81

Supported Living

Provision of Supported Living for Complex Needs Framework (Lots 1 – 7) in the borough of Walsall:

For all framework contracts Rate Card rates for 2023/2024 to be uplifted by 4.06%

Spot purchase contracts for the provision of Supported Living for Complex Needs:

Spot purchase contracts for 2023/2024 to be uplifted by 4.06%.

Direct Payments

For the Domiciliary Care element of a direct payment, The Council is increasing the hourly rate by 4.06% to £16.81 in line with community based services framework.

If you currently receive more than £16.81 then this will not change and no uplift will be applied.

For the Supported Living element of a Direct Payment, a 4.06% uplift will apply in line with Supported Living Framework and contracted Supported Living provision.

For the Personal Assistant element of a Direct Payment, the rate will increase by 4.06% from £11.29 to £11.74 for 2023/2024.

For the Day Opportunities element of a Direct Payment, a 2% uplift will apply for 2023/2024.

Day Care

In house and external Day Care will be uplifted by 2%.

Contracted uplift

The Council is contractually obliged to apply an uplift to a small number of providers. This element equates to an estimated investment of £1.13m for 2023/24 (subject to confirmation of the February national RPIX).

Summary of Investment – Externally Commissioned Services

The table below demonstrates the financial commitment resulting from the application of The Councils three year strategic approach to market uplifts and utilization of the Market Sustainability and Improvement Grant allocations. This provides a total market investment for 2023/24 of £2,458,413.

Area	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	1% Uplift on 2020/21 £	1.5%/Plus Uplift on 2021/22 £	2%/Plus Uplift on 2022/23 £
Residential & Nursing	308,297	512,336	466,582
Domiciliary Care	162,243	646,946	668,236
Direct Payments	145,846	376,829	524,397
Supported Living	152,244	628,329	683,397
Day Care	1,986	879	110
Shared Lives*	14,845	18,728	43,652
Reablement & Rapid Response	18,218	27,599	72,039
Total	803,679	2,211,646	2,458,413

*further uplifts associated with Shared Lives provision is subject to completion of the new banding system which aimed at standardisation.

Future Proposals

The increase in rates set out above for 2023/2024 forms part of Walsall Council's medium term strategy to 2023/2024. The proposed model for future rate increases for 2024/25 will be confirmed next year and will be dependent on budget availability and if any services are competitively tendered each year.

The Council is committed to working towards incorporating the Fair Cost of Care using the Fair Cost of Care exercises as a key input to future fee setting processes.

This can, however, only be undertaken as part of the broader strategic aims being developed through The Councils Re-imagining Care commissioning programme.

For general queries please email:

AdultSocialCareCommissioning@walsall.gov.uk

For Invoicing Arrangements please see Appendix 1

Appendix 1 - Invoicing Arrangements 2022/2023

Area	Payment Detail	Contact details address/Submission of invoices
Providers paid by Electric Call Monitoring – Older People, Complex, Mental Health Functional & Mental Health Dementia and non-contracted providers	Rates will be applied to system with effect from 1 st April 2023	Remittance is sent via email to the provider. Requests for copies should be sent to: ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk
Direct Payments	Rates will be applied from 1 st April 2023	
Residential & Nursing Permanent Placements	Rate will be applied to the system with effect from 1 st April 2023	
Replacement Care	Providers required to submit invoice(s) with new rates applicable from 1 st April 2023. Please include Order details and MOSAIC reference on invoice.	Invoices to be submitted by email to: ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk
Rapid Response	Providers required to submit invoice(s) with new rates applicable from 1 st April 2023. Please include Order details and MOSAIC reference on invoice.	Invoices to be submitted by email to: ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk
Reablement	Rates will be applied from 1 st April 2023	ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk Commissioned Care Payments Team Adult Social Care Civic Centre 3 rd Floor Zone 3D Darwall Street Walsall WS1 1TP
If you are unsure where to send your invoice please contact	ASCCommissionedservicespaymentteam@walsall.gov.uk Commissioned Care Payments Team Adult Social Care Civic Centre 3 rd Floor Zone 3D Darwall Street Walsall WS1 1TP Telephone: 01922 652737	