

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 25 October, 2021
Report for: Noting
Report of: The Executive Member for Adult Social Care

Report Title

Fair Price for Care

Summary

This report is to provide the Executive with an update on recent and planned activity around the Fair Price for Care

Recommendation(s)

That the Executive:-

- Note the content of the report
- Note the lengthened time frame for the analysis of day care costs.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Karen Ahmed
Extension: 1890

Background Papers: None

Implications:

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	<p>Low Council Tax and Value for Money Economic Growth and Development: The FPFC annual uplift will contribute to improved workforce pay, conditions and retention, to stabilize the care market, supporting growth for local providers and improved skills for local people.</p> <p>Services focused on the most vulnerable people: Residential and nursing care and homecare are targeted services provided to the most vulnerable people, following a social care assessment and ensures their safety at some of the most critical times of their lives, e.g. following hospital discharge.</p> <p>Trafford Together Plan and the Integrated Care System: We are working towards an integrated commissioning system for Trafford and as part of this continue to discuss how we might further integrate commissioning activity within the new ICS.</p>
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	<p>Greater Manchester Population Health Plan 2017-2021: Age Well Priority: We are continuing to support more people to live at home for as long as possible and we will manage COVID infection rates through the provision of safe care at home and care home services.</p> <p>Greater Manchester Health and Care Board Urgent and Emergency Care Improvement and Transformation Plan: Social care is integral to priorities around reducing delayed hospital discharges and urgent/unplanned care and our community response to COVID.</p> <p>Greater Manchester Live Well at Home Strategy: This proposal is aligned with GM priorities to improve homecare and supports us to continue to transform homecare, in line with our allocation of GM Transformation monies.</p> <p>Across GM, there are over 560 residential and nursing homes with over 19,000 beds. These homes make a significant contribution to the functioning of the health and care economy but there is significant variation in the level of quality, responsiveness, and adaptability. Last year GM established quality targets, based on CQC ratings, and these will be reviewed in line with the changing regulation framework. We have seen recent improvements in the quality of care provided by care homes despite the challenges of Covid.</p> <p>GM is currently focused on maintaining market stability, and a number of boroughs have already lost some of their care homes. As the intention is to move away from traditional nursing and residential care homes, this will involve some reshaping and diversification of the market.</p> <p>Housing Strategy and Ageing Well: We are working very closely with our colleagues in housing strategy and in public health to look at a number of different options to support people living in the community with</p>

	<p>a wide range of needs so that people only enter residential care when they need that level of care and support, rather than because their living accommodation does not meet their needs or they are lonely. These approaches are articulated in our Ageing Well and new Older Peoples' Housing Strategies.</p> <p>Commissioning Strategy and Market Position Principles: Our vision for the market and our commitment to coproduction is articulated in "Trafford Together," our locality plan which has now been refreshed. This is a jointly agreed document which sets out the system wide changes we need to make.</p>
Financial	The proposed uplift based on increases to the NLW and RPI for other costs would be met from within the overall allocation for inflation and demography in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) that has been allocated to the Adult Social Care budget for 2022/23.
Legal Implications:	Consultation requirements are set out in relevant legislation. Legal advice will be sought where required.
Equality/Diversity Implications	Decision-makers are under a legal duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination against home care recipients (as well as providers/staff), promote equality of opportunity between such persons and others and foster good relations between such persons and others. Therefore, it is important to take care that all the new rates are adequate to promote a diverse and high quality care market, in particular because of the risk that otherwise there could be an adverse impact on the welfare of vulnerable residents and/or staff and their ability to enjoy a quality of life comparable with those less vulnerable. Vulnerable residents include in particular the elderly, women and disabled persons. Staff are largely female and older persons. Decision-makers need to be satisfied that the proposed rate is adequate for the welfare of residents and staff. Older women are disproportionately represented in social care because they live longer. In addition, poorer residents will be the key recipients of funded adults' social care, as they often acquire long term conditions and illnesses earlier that necessitate social care and they do not have the resources to fund their own care. The increase in rates will ensure that these groups of people are able to access services which meet their needs.
Sustainability Implications	N/A
Carbon Reduction	The reorganisation of homecare staff into localities will enable more walking to homes to provide services, impacting positively our carbon footprint.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	N/A
Risk Management Implications	The key risks for Trafford are around maintaining a sustainable care market within a nationally very fragile social care market. The key challenge currently is around recruitment to home care. Nationally and local, the fragility of the market, particularly those care homes relying on self-funders as a source of income, has increased as the public have lost confidence in care homes. In order to do this we must set an appropriate inflationary uplift which enables providers

	to meet all reasonable costs incurred in providing services and continue to attract staff.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	<p>The recommendations outlined in this report will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of local residents in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local social care workforce will experience improved pay and conditions which will improve their health and wellbeing and have a positive impact on workforce retention rate in homecare locally. • Improved workforce retention will support market stability and support maximum capacity within the available workforce. • People in receipt of homecare will experience improved quality of care by ensuring adequate time for visits so that carers can do their job properly; providing statutory sick pay for workers so that they don't have to work with vulnerable residents when they are ill; better continuity of care
Health and Safety Implications	N/A

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Every year the Council undertakes an exercise called the Fair Price for Care which essentially sets out our pricing approach for the forthcoming year. We are required by law to consult with providers on this process.
- 1.2 In previous years, we simply applied an inflationary uplift to those prices, but as time went on, we recognised that there was an increasing disparity between those prices arrived at though this methodology and the cost of purchasing care, especially where this applied to older peoples' residential or nursing care in borough. Over the last two years we have incrementally rebased the bed rate for older people, and last year we rebased the homecare rate in recognition of the transformative role that homecare provided. Both these exercises have contributed to our commitment to working towards the Ethical Care Charter, together with our Living Well at Home strategy. We are now reverting to using the an inflationary uplift to the rebased prices as the Council's pricing is now more in line with the costs of purchasing care.
- 1.3 This year we will be scrutinising the day care charges which span direct payments, spot purchases and commissioned services. Our plan for next year is to bring the same level of scrutiny to placements for people with learning disabilities and/or mental health needs as we have previously done to older people's costs.
- 1.4 Because of the financial challenges brought about by Covid, the demands put on adult social care through increased hospital discharge, demographic changes and the increased complexity of our residents, we will be proposing an inflationary uplift this year which will maintain the Council's commitment to the Ethical Care Charter by ensuring that we maintain the increase in price resulting from the rebasing exercises.

2.0 Proposals

- 2.1 We are proposing to consult with providers on the following inflationary uplifts:-
 - The RPI/CPI in October which is yet to be announced; and

- The national living wage (NLW) increase which is yet to be announced and we will not know until November at the earliest
- 2.2 Once the consultation exercise has been completed, we propose to present a report to Executive in December detailing the outcome of the consultation exercise and proposals for future rates.

3.0 Day Services

- 3.1 We are currently analysing the range of day care costs as differential rates are being applied according to the method of purchasing these service, and who the provider is, regardless of the type of service. We will not be seeking a reduction in costs but rather a clarity and consistency of charges with a clear upper limit in order to promote transparency and choice.
- 3.2 We will continue to analyse day care costs and once that analysis has been concluded, we propose to present a report detailing the outcome of our analysis to Executive in the summer of 2022 with any recommendations being implemented across the financial year.

4.0 Activity Timetable

Date	Activity
11th October 2021	Executive Briefing – Update Note
12 th October 2021	Consultation begins
8th November 2021	Consultation ends
December 2021	Executive Committee report on FPFC
June/July 2022	Executive Committee report on day care

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 The Council is legally required to consult with providers on the Fair Price for Care. . .
Consultation will be carried out in line with legislative requirements.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendation

The Council is required to consult with the public on the proposals detailed in this report before a final model can be proposed for formal approval. The Executive is recommended to note the detail contained in the report by way of an update on the current position in respect of Fair Price For Care consultation.

Recommendations

That the Executive:-

- Note the content of the report
- Note the lengthened time frame for analysis of day care costs.

Finance Officer Clearance (*type in initials*).....HZ.....

Legal Officer Clearance (*type in initials*).....DS.....

CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE (*electronic*)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Satorn".