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Strategy, Commissioning and Performance

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Dear Provider,

**Inflationary Uplift 2024/25**

Wokingham Borough Council (the Council) is very aware of the significant cost pressures affecting the care sector and the important role of providers in managing costs and continuing to deliver quality services to the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Council has always sought to pay competitive rates for the services it buys and is committed to ensuring market sustainability, which includes improving pay for care staff. At the same time, it should be acknowledged that local authorities are facing unprecedented levels of financial challenge.

Recent settlements for increased funding for adult social care must be used to fund increasing demands for services from our growing aging population as well as to meet inflationary cost pressures.

The Council continues to lobby national government and have written to Ministers seeking increased funding for the social care system, which recognises the increased levels of demand and the need to improve pay for care staff.

Against this challenging backdrop and within its limited financial envelope, the Council are committed to fulfilling its statutory obligations, both to meet the social care needs of our population and to ensure the sustainability of our market.

In determining its approach for this year's uplift, the Council has considered a range of factors which include, the budget available, knowledge of the market, provider cost inflation, regional benchmarking, and fair cost of care reviews. For some types of care, the average rates paid by the Council are amongst the highest in the country.

For 2024/25 the Council has agreed to provide an uplift of **up to** 6% for existing Adult Social Care Services **subject to the maximum levels** **detailed in the table below**. As per the terms and conditions of your contract with the Council, providers are not able to apply their own percentage increase to existing packages.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  **Price Cap** | **Type of Care** |
| £950 | OP residential with dementia |
| £925 | OP residential without dementia |
| £1000 | OP nursing with dementia |
| £1000 | OP nursing without dementia |

Any residential packages which commenced on or after 1st January 2024 will not be eligible for an uplift as it is assumed the providers will have negotiated rates to take account of the statutory increases from April 2024.

The Council believes that its agreed uplift represents a significant increase in funding, which reflects its continued commitment to working with providers to ensure the financial sustainability of the sector.

If you are providing services which are part funded by our Health partners (through CHC or Sect 117 funding) you will need to contact the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for information on the uplift to be applied to their funding commitment.

Please find below details of the uplifted rates for Council funded service users which will take effect from 1st April 2024. From this date, all invoices should be based on these rates to avoid delays in payment.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Service | Customer initials and ID | Current Rate per week | New Rate per week |
| ASC - Residential Long-Term |  |  |  |

If you have any questions regarding the information above, please contact CommissioningSupportTeam@wokingham.gov.uk.

If additional funding is required due to a change in need or because a revised care package is required, please contact the Brokerage and Support Team on 0118 974 6832 and arrange for the customer to have a re-assessment of need.

Yours faithfully



Jenny Lamprell

**Head of Service, Strategic Commissioning**

**Adult Services**