

Essex County Council
Adult Social Care
PO Box 11, County Hall
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 1LX



Professor Martin Green OBE
Chief Executive
Care England
(Sent via email)

29 November 2021

Dear Professor Green

Thank you for your letter dated 4 November asking about the process for setting fee levels for next year.

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for the continued support and dedication of everyone in the care sector. I know that we are experiencing a period of unprecedented pressure across the entire health and social care system. I appreciate how challenging workforce recruitment and retention has become in recent months. You will be aware that in October we created our own Workforce Fund which has provided £3 million to support the sector with their immediate resourcing pressures. This is in addition to the £12 million Covid Relief Fund which remains available to cover pandemic-related costs and the various funds which have been made available by central government.

Over the summer we engaged with the market as part of our annual process to update our cost of care models. These models will inform the uplift proposal which will be part of next year's budget; this will be considered by the Cabinet in January and Full Council in February. In parallel, we have recently started a consultation process with the older person's residential sector which aims to consider enhancements to our commissioning and contracting processes. This consultation is being facilitated by the Essex Care Association. In parallel we are continuing to lobby central government about the need for additional funds for social care in next month's comprehensive spending review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Presmeg".

Nick Presmeg
Executive Director for Adult Social Care