Jozsef Gecsei

From: LBC Feedback <Feedback@luton.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 March 2021 09:18
To: info; Jozsef Gecsei
Subject: FOI response- C15359

Our Reference: C15359

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Your Freedom of Information Request

I write in response to your Freedom of Information request dated 4/2/2021.

Your Request:

1. The nature of the additional and direct financial Covid support the Council has provided since the commencement of the pandemic.
2. Of the financial support referred to in (1) above, is it continuing? If not, for what period was it provided? If it is continuing, for how long will it continue?
3. Of the financial support referred to in (1) above, did it include any support to address the financial impacts of falling occupancy levels?
4. What was the care home occupancy level in your local area in March and April 2020 and what was this occupancy level in December 2020 and January 2021?
5. What fee level increases are being proposed by the Council for the year 2021/22?
6. If not already addressed within the answers to questions (1) to (5) above, what other forms of financial support for care providers is the Council considering for the remainder of the financial year 2021/22 to assist the sustainability of their care service provision during this period?
7. Has the Council consulted on any of the foregoing; if not does it propose doing so and when does it propose doing so?

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Response:

1. The nature of the additional and direct financial Covid support the Council has provided since the commencement of the pandemic.
Mutual aid across service areas, tailored to need in terms of average payments or increased base rates.

2. Of the financial support referred to in (1) above, is it continuing? If not, for what period was it provided? If it is continuing, for how long will it continue?

Residential, nursing, supported living (in borough) – Mutual aid in place from 19 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Residential, nursing, supported living (out of borough) – Mutual aid was in place for a number of providers where a need was identified between 19 March and 30 June 2020
Domiciliary care – Mutual aid in place from 24 March 2020 to 5 July 2020 and 1 December 2020 to 31 March 2021
Direct Payments – The council continued to pay all direct payments unless requested to suspend.
Day Centres –The council continued to pay the average weekly rate to all external day centres.

3. Of the financial support referred to in (1) above, did it include any support to address the financial impacts of falling occupancy levels?
Yes for in borough residential, nursing and supported living only in the timeframe identified in (2) above.

4. What was the care home occupancy level in your local area in March and April 2020 and what was this occupancy level in December 2020 and January 2021?
Occupancy levels have been captured quarterly. Available detail is as follows:
March 2020 – 80.50%
December 2020 – 73.72%

5. What fee level increases are being proposed by the Council for the year 2021/22?
This has not yet been agreed.

6. If not already addressed within the answers to questions (1) to (5) above, what other forms of financial support for care providers is the Council considering for the remainder of the financial year 2021/22 to assist the sustainability of their care service provision during this period?
None outside of that identified in (2) above due to funding available through infection control, rapid testing and workforce capacity. However, the council remains open to reviewing and working with providers on an individual and collective market basis should a need be identified.
If Direct Payment individuals chose to pause their PA (now furlough) and ask for a family member instead, the Direct Payment could be used to pay them instead, but not if they lived in the same household. The LA provided PPE for free during the peak of the pandemic and will provide this on an adhoc basis if Employers are having trouble obtaining it.

7. Has the Council consulted on any of the foregoing; if not does it propose doing so and when does it propose doing so?
No and there is not currently an intention to do so.

Next Steps
If you are dissatisfied with this response, you can request for an Internal Review by contacting us at: feedback@luton.gov.uk, please set out any specific concerns you have. Please quote the reference number provided above when contacting us.

Should you remain unhappy with the Internal Review, you can refer your concerns to the Information Commissioner:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow

Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

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Yours sincerely,

Complaints and Information Compliance Team

Luton Council
Business Intelligence Unit

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