

ASC Commissioning
Town Hall
Bourne Avenue
Bournemouth
BH2 6EB



Date 06 January 2022

Email: phil.hornsby@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Tel : 01202 128944

Care England
Attn Professor Martin Green OBE

Dear Professor Green,

Re: 2022-23 Care Home Fees

Thank you for your letter dated 3 November 2021 addressed to Jan Thurgood. Ms Thurgood retired in June 2021, so please accept my apologies for the delay in responding and the need for you to send a reminder email.

Can I start by giving some context to the local area position. BCP Council came into being in April 2019, bringing together 4 councils (2 unitaries, one district and part of a county council). As you can imagine, this was quite an undertaking and then, of course, we were faced with a pandemic in early 2020 which has meant that some of our strategic priorities, including establishing a unified approach to care home fees, have by necessity been delayed,

The data you have referred to regarding the fees paid by BCP Council to care home providers is misleading, in so much as the council's brokerage team negotiate placement fees on a case by case basis, informed by individual needs and care requirements. The average cost paid currently £912.00 (across residential and nursing excluding FNCC) and the rates paid reflect the costs of the individual providers in delivering the care commissioned.

In terms of fees for 2022/23, the council is currently considering its approach to setting a 'fair price' which will be a fundamental change from the way it currently negotiates individual placements, taking into account local, regional and national data to establish an approach that removes uncertainty for both providers and commissioners on fee levels. However, at this point in time it is not possible to set this out in any detail, but I can assure you that we are engaging with providers to seek their views before putting forward any proposals for their consideration. The current timeline for this work is to have completed the view seeking and initial data gathering by the end of January, prepare a proposal during the early part of February and then approach the market with view to implementing any changes by April. The current system pressures of Covid may impact on this as we do not wish to place further pressure on providers and want to get this right, but we are keen to reach agreement as soon as possible.

I realise this is not the comprehensive response you were seeking, but I hope that you are reassured we are working towards the same goals as Care England.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hornsby'.

Phil Hornsby
Director – Commissioning for People

bcpcouncil.gov.uk