Our Reference: CE_MG_091121_327

9th November 2021

Ms. Laura Church
Corporate Director Public Health and Wellbeing
Luton Borough Council
Town Hall
Luton LU1 2BQ
Email: laura.church@luton.gov.uk

Dear Ms. Church,

Care England, a registered charity, is the leading representative body for Adult Social Care providers in England. Working on behalf of small, medium and large care home providers, Care England speaks with a single unified voice for both members and the whole care sector. Our membership includes organisations of varying types and sizes, amongst them single care homes, small local groups, national providers and not-for-profit voluntary organisations and associations. Between them they provide a variety of services for older people and those with long term conditions, learning disabilities or mental health problems. Care England is committed to supporting a united, quality conscious, independent sector that offers real choice and value for money for our older people. Our aim is to create an environment in which care providers can continue to deliver and develop the high-quality care that communities require and deserve.

2022-23 Care Home Fees
As councils no doubt enter another period of fee review and post the Chancellors SR21 budget, which announced the National Living Wage uplift of 6.6%, and inflation to September 21 of 3.1%, we want to express the concerns of our members about the fees to be paid from April 2022. Our members are seeing pressure on workforce recruitment and retention, increasing agency costs due to workforce shortfalls, low occupancy, the financial impact on costs as a result of Brexit, the transport and fuel crisis, and rising utility costs.

We would again ask that you confirm your timelines for collecting any necessary data, key dates and decision processes for determining the 2022-23 fee rates, uplift, and the 2022-23 approach to funding care, so we can assist our members in planning to ensure high quality care is sustained in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Martin Green OBE
Chief Executive, Care England