

23rd February 2022

Richard Ayres
Social Care Advisor
Care England
40 Artillery Lane
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Dear Richard

Re: 2022/23 Care Home Fees for Older Persons

Many thanks for your follow up letter dated 21/02/22.

I wanted to respond briefly just to confirm and answer a few of the points but we would also be more than happy to work with regional and national colleagues on some of this work going forward (and are doing so already).

On the future cost of care exercises, we very much intend to have a regional approach and utilise the CHIP/LGA tools, if our providers support that approach. We would not support a large number of different exercise either but do want to allow for local variation and nuance.

On the 22/23 fee uplift we support representation and engagement prior to any decision being made and have done so for many years. These representations are presented to the Cabinet member in forming and making decisions on fees for the forthcoming year. We have clearly articulated already some of the pressures on our providers and have, as intimated previously, already taken steps to mitigate these and bring forward some funding a support into the current year. The RCPA is not working solely for its members – all views from non members are also collated via them – this was a decision shared with providers a few years ago to bring a collated response. All messaging on this comes from our mailing lists not the RCPA's.

Providers views are therefore in advance of any decision and contain a breakdown of their views and detailed financial pressures.

Bespoke or complex fees are calculated with providers and using Care Cubed for some arrangements. For most, we have an open framework with an ability to discuss and personalise needs and support accordingly.

Our council is voting on the ASC precept at Full Council but we are once again raising the maximum available. The proposed budget seeks an £18m investment into Adult Social Care, much of which we hope will be passed onto those who work on the ground in our sector – we are committed to raising pay levels well above minimum wage.

I hope this response helps once again and we will continue to work with our providers, most of whom are local to Somerset, on a fair price for care next year and in future years.

Best wishes



Tim Baverstock

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