

Sefton Support to Care Providers

Implementation of Proposed 2020/21 Fee Rates

The implementation of proposed 2020/21 fee rates which took into account cost of care modelling and the reflection of increased cost pressures such as the increase to the National Living Wage was expedited, resulting in the following rate increases being implemented;

Sector	% Increase
Residential & Nursing	4.56%
Domiciliary Care	5.8%
Supported Living	5.39%
Community Support	5.8%
Direct Payments (Agency)	5.8%

Support to Providers During COVID-19 Period

Sefton Council's approach to supporting care providers has been based on the need to ensure care services continue to be effective and sustainable in response to the requirements of the COVID-19 period. Support is provided on an on-going basis in both financial and non-financial ways, as below:

Financial Support

- Commitment to gather and analyse information on costs incurred by care providers as a result of their response to the requirements of the COVID-19 period, for example PPE;
- Commitment to provide additional funding for all Service Users within services, not just those commissioned by the Council
- Payment based on 'usual' levels of activity to secure care provider cash flow for care agencies;
- Consideration of the option for payments to be made in advance;
- Administration and distribution of the newly announced Infection Control Fund (in place from June 2020);
- Total funding committed to date across all providers: **£4.52m**

Non-Financial Support

- Daily contact and weekly forum with care providers;
- 7-day response to distribution of PPE where stocks identified at emergency levels;
- Regional co-ordination of PPE
- Care Home Support Cell established
- Daily communications to disseminate guidance
- Daily support from IPC team
- Education and support package
- Skype Calls to care homes and care agencies
- Distribution of mobile phones to all care homes to support with virtual surgeries
- Health provider wrap around support package – introduction of care home matrons
- COVID escalation policy developed to provide rapid response
- Continuing to analyse costs to the market through financial template and open book accounting approach