

**FAO:** Sefton Domiciliary (Care at Home) Providers

**By Email**

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Sefton Domiciliary Care (Care at Home) Provider

**RE: Sefton Council Annual Consultation on 2025/26 Fees**

I am writing to you in order to commence formal Sefton Council consultation with you on our proposed fees for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Council are proposing a **3.03%** increase to fees resulting in the following rates being implemented (with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025) for Sefton Partnership PDPS and Sefton & Knowsley PDPS contracted Providers;

**Table 1 - Proposed 2025/2026 Domiciliary Care Rate**

Duration / Service Element	2025/26 Rate	2024/25 Rate
1 Hour	<b>£24.13</b>	£23.42
45 Minutes	<b>£18.10</b>	£17.57
30 Minutes	<b>£12.07</b>	£11.71
Sleep-in (8 Hour Night)	<b>£112.33</b>	£105.25
Waking Night (8 Hour Night)	<b>£193.04</b>	£187.36

The following table outlines how the increase has been calculated;

**Table 2 - Calculations for 2025/2026 Domiciliary Care Rate**

	2024/25 Calculations	2025/26 Fee	Details
Direct care	£12.00	<b>£12.60</b>	RLW Increase from £12.00
Travel time	£1.20	<b>£1.26</b>	10% of £12.60
Mileage	£0.47	<b>£0.47</b>	No Increase

Training (staff time)	£0.25	<b>£0.26</b>	5% Increase
Holiday	£1.72	<b>£1.81</b>	5% Increase
Sickness/maternity and paternity pay	£0.36	<b>£0.38</b>	5% Increase
NI (direct care hours)	£1.07	<b>£1.16</b>	8.7%increase
Pension (direct care hours)	£0.46	<b>£0.48</b>	5% Increase
Back office staff	£3.16	<b>£3.32</b>	5% Increase
Rent/rates/utilities	£0.36	<b>£0.36</b>	No Increase
Recruitment/DBS	£0.22	<b>£0.22</b>	No Increase
Training (third party)	£0.04	<b>£0.04</b>	No Increase
IT (hardware, software CRM, ECM)	£0.21	<b>£0.21</b>	No Increase
Telephony	£0.08	<b>£0.08</b>	No Increase
Stationery/postage	£0.06	<b>£0.06</b>	No Increase
Insurance	£0.12	<b>£0.12</b>	No Increase
Legal/finance/professional fees	£0.09	<b>£0.09</b>	No Increase
Marketing	£0.03	<b>£0.03</b>	No Increase
Uniforms and other consumables	£0.03	<b>£0.03</b>	No Increase
Central/head office recharges	£0.35	<b>£0.35</b>	No Increase
CQC fees	£0.09	<b>£0.09</b>	No Increase
Total Return on Operations	£1.04	<b>£0.70</b>	3% on £23.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£23.42</b>	<b>£24.13</b>	<b>3.03% Increase</b>

Please note the following:

- Fees would be applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
- Any call durations outside of this framework will have been commissioned by request with Service Users will also be uplifted by the same proposed percentage increase.
- The Council continues to not seek to commission 15-minute visit durations.
- The figures in the table are not a definitive guide on expenditure on each specific element as it is acknowledged that Providers will have their own specific business models and operating costs.
- The Sleep-in rate above is based on the new National Living Wage of £12.21 plus 15% on costs (I.E. (£12.21 + 15%) x 8 hours).
- The above 'daytime' rates would also be applicable to Direct Payment recipients who utilise a CQC registered Agency.

As part of this consultation process the Council wishes to particularly receive and consider your feedback in relation to the following questions:

1. Whether the level of proposed fees set out will cover the cost of delivering Domiciliary Care for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026; and
2. If you do not agree with the above rates and in particular, if you consider that they will not cover the Care Act 2014, the cost delivering Domiciliary Care, please outline why and provide any supporting information that you feel may be pertinent.

The following plan/timeline outlines the next steps of the Consultation and decision-making process.

Ref	Action	Target Date
1	Confirm proposals and process to all Providers (letter to all providers to confirm proposals and consultation process)	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
2	Period for Consultation Responses from Providers (Providers to supply comments, information and evidence on the matters consulted on)	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 – 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
3	Microsoft Teams consultation meeting with Providers	During above consultation period
4	Assessment and Analysis of Responses (assessment and analysis of comments, information and evidence supplied by Providers together with other information available to the Authority) / work on proposals and Cabinet report (including draft Cabinet report formulation and production of supporting documentation)	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
5	Letter to all Providers (signposting them to Cabinet report - published the week in advance of the Cabinet meeting)	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
6	Cabinet Decision	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025
7	2025/26 fees published (following expiry of “call-in” period for decision)	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

The Consultation period will run until **Midnight on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025** so please ensure that all responses are returned by this time in order for them to be taken account of in our decision-making process.

Please return your comments by e-mail to [Neil.Watson@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Watson@sefton.gov.uk)

Once the consultation period has closed, we will give full consideration to any responses received before submitting a report to Cabinet for decision.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for taking the time to consider this matter and to respond to this consultation.

Yours Faithfully



Deborah Butcher

**Executive Director Adult Social Care Health and Wellbeing**