

Integration Joint Board

Agenda Item:

Date of Meeting: 29 January 2020

Title: 2020/21 Social Work Fees and Charges

Presented by: David Forshaw

The board is asked to:

- Review and endorse the appended 2020/21 Social Work Fees and Charges proposals so that the proposals can be submitted to Argyll and Bute Council for ratification at its 2020/21 budget meeting.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides details of the proposed annual Social Work fees and charges uplifts for 2020/21. In accordance with normal practice, a standard uplift percentage of 3% has been applied to all of the department's fees and charges with three exceptions which are explained in the detail of the report.
- 1.2 Members are reminded that decisions on changes to the partnership's Non-Residential Care Charging Scheme are reserved to Argyll and Bute Council (the Council) and that members of the IJB are asked to review and, if so minded, endorse the proposed changes to the scheme ahead of a formal submission to the Council's budget 2020/21 budget meeting in to seek ratification for their implementation from April 2020.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report sets out the schedule of proposed fees and charges for Social Work services for the 2020/21 financial year. The detailed list of proposed charges, including the 2019/20 rates for comparison, is attached as appendix 1 to the report.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 Appendix 1 to this report provides the list of uprated fees and charges for 2020/21 after the application of a 3% annual inflationary uplift – there may be some minor variations due to rounding in the smaller charges.
- 3.2 The following three service areas have increases which exceed the standard 3% uplift, the details of which are provided below:

3.2.1 Local Authority Residential Care Provision (Older People)

Charges for the provision of residential care are based on the budgeted cost of the service for 2020/21 which takes account of a number of factors which result in the costs increasing by more than 3%, such as:

- The combined effect of payroll inflation and staff advancing through the spinal column points in their salary scale; and
- Costs where inflation has been estimated to exceed 3%, including electricity and catering costs where inflation has been assumed at up to 10%.

The result is an overall increase in the charge of 5.9%. The number of people affected will be limited to those who are classed as self-funding, with capital and assets with a value exceeding £28,000 (threshold as at 2019/20 with 10 self-funding clients out of 69 residents in the HSCP's care homes as at 7 January 2020), or other councils with clients placed in the HSCP's care homes. The majority of residents pay substantially less based on their ability to pay as assessed under the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations issued by the Scottish Government.

3.2.2 Sleepovers

The 3.6% increase in the sleepover charge is due to the Scottish Living Wage hourly rate, which it is based on, increasing by 3.33% and the effects of rounding in the calculation.

3.2.3 Children and Families Local Authority Residential Care Provision

As above at 3.2.1, the proposed charges for Duncloth, Shellach View and East King Street reflect the budgeted cost for 2020/21 and are affected by the same payroll and inflationary cost pressures explained previously.

The charges for the three units would only be payable by other councils placing clients in the HSCP's children's houses. None of the children or their families would be charged for the service provided at the three houses.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the proposed rates increases are endorsed by the IJB and the proposals submitted to the Council for ratification at its 2020/21 budget meeting ahead of implementation of the new rates from April 2020.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The HSCP faces a combination of increasing demand and service costs which is outstripping the funding available to sustain service delivery in its current form. The annual adjustment to fees and charges ensures that

charges remain relevant to service costs which enables the IJB to maintain income at levels proportionate to service costs in order to sustain services and avoid potential service reductions.

6. GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Impact

The annual adjustment to fees and charges ensures that charges remain relevant to service costs which enables the IJB to maintain proportionate income levels in order to sustain services and avoid potential service reductions.

6.2 Staff Governance

Updated fees and charges lists will be provided to staff and built into revised 2020/21 versions of the Social Work service's charge calculation templates once the rates have been ratified by the Council.

6.3 Clinical Governance

Not applicable.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The proposed changes apply equally to everyone who receives a service which the partnership will continue to charge for. Subsequently, there are no anticipated adverse equality or diversity issues arising from this report.

8. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES COMPLIANCE

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The key risk arising from the above proposal relates to service users who are unable to afford to pay increased charges. To ensure that charges are levied fairly and that service users are not placed into financial hardship, the Council's Non-Residential Care Charging Policy is reviewed annually in line with changes to state benefits rates and other related guidance issued by the Scottish Government and COSLA – the review for 2020/21 has been delayed due to the December General Election and the resultant delay in the Westminster budget statement and subsequent Scottish Government announcements. In addition, staff are able to signpost service users to local advice services and the Council's Welfare Rights Team to ensure that their benefit entitlements have been maximised and for help and advice with managing their money. Finally, a waivers and abatement procedure is in place which provides service managers with discretion to adjust charges where necessary.

10. PUBLIC AND USER INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

10.1 Not applicable.

11. CONCLUSIONS

11.1 This report sets out the proposed annual increases to the Social Work fees and charges rates which reflect the increased cost of delivering social care services in Argyll and Bute. Members are asked to endorse the proposals for submission to the Council for ratification at the Council's 2020/21 budget meeting.

12. DIRECTIONS

Directions required to Council, NHS Board or both.	Directions to:	Tick
	No directions required	
	Argyll and Bute Council	✓
	NHS Highland Health Board	
	Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland Health Board	

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