

**Integration Joint Board**

**Agenda Item:**

**Date of Meeting: 27 January 2021**

**Title: 2021/22 Social Work Fees and Charges**

**Presented by: David Forshaw**

**The board is asked to:**

- Review and endorse the appended 2021/22 Social Work Fees and Charges proposals so that the proposals can be submitted to Argyll and Bute Council for ratification at its 2021/22 budget meeting.

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details of the proposed annual Social Work Fees and Charges uplifts for 2021/22. 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 2021/22 budget meeting in to seek ratification for their implementation from April 2021.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report sets out the schedule of proposed fees and charges for Social Work services for the 2021/22 financial year. The detailed list of proposed charges, including the 2020/21 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 2021/22 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 proposed charges for the following three service areas are not calculated by applying a standard 3% uplift:

### **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 2021/22 which takes account of a number of inflationary assumptions across the range of costs incurred by the homes. The overall uplift for 2021/22 is 2%, mainly due to a lower assumption being applied for staff pay inflation as a result of the economic impact on the public finances of the COVID 19 pandemic. The proposal is to reduce the uplift to be in line with actual costs (below the 3% applied to other charges) as previous years' uplifts have been above the inflationary uplift level. We advise all clients that we will not charge them more than it costs to deliver the service, noting also that we only recharge controllable costs.

The proposed rate will be charged to other health and social care partnerships and local authorities with clients placed in the HSCP's care homes in and to local people residing in the homes who own capital and assets exceeding £28,500 (threshold as at 2020/21). There are currently 12 self-funding clients out of 67 residents in the HSCP's care homes as at 11 January 2021, equivalent to 18% of the current residents). The majority of residents, 82% of the current 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 sleepover charge is based on the 2021/22 Scottish Living Wage hourly rate, which has been set at £9.50 per hour, an increase of 2.15% compared to the 2020/21 rate of £9.30 per hour. The uplift percentage is slightly less due to 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 Dunclutha, Shellach View and East King Street reflect the budgeted cost for 2021/22 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 2021/22 budget meeting ahead of implementation of the new rates from April 2021.

## **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 2021/22 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 – no proposals for changes have been issued for 2021/22. 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 2021/22 budget meeting.

## 12. DIRECTIONS

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

## REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTACT

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## APPENDIX 1 – 2021/22 SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Description	Other	2020/21				2021/22				Increase		Notes/Comments
		Net £	VAT Rate	VAT £	Gross £	Net £	VAT Rate	VAT £	Gross £	£	%	
<b>SOCIAL WORK</b>												
Local Authority Residential Care Provision (Community Care) Weekly Charge		1,391.34	Outwith the Scope	0.00	1,391.34	1,422.39	Outwith the Scope	0.00	1,422.39	31.05	2.2%	
Non - Residential Services - Lunch Clubs - per meal		4.50	Outwith the Scope	0.00	4.50	4.65	Outwith the Scope	0.00	4.65	0.15	3.3%	
Non - Residential Services - Telecare - Community Alarms - per week		5.46	Outwith the Scope	0.00	5.46	5.60	Outwith the Scope	0.00	5.60	0.14	2.6%	
Non - Residential Services - Telecare - Care Assist System - per week		4.63	Outwith the Scope	0.00	4.63	4.75	Outwith the Scope	0.00	4.75	0.12	2.6%	
Non - Residential Services - Telecare - Mobile Devices and Monitoring - per week		2.58	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.58	2.65	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.65	0.07	2.7%	
Non - Residential Services - Telecare - Canary System - per week		2.06	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.06	2.10	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.10	0.04	1.9%	
Non - Residential Services - Home Help - hourly rate		18.48	Outwith the Scope	0.00	18.48	19.04	Outwith the Scope	0.00	19.04	0.56	3.0%	Adjusted to be divisible by 4 to reflect quarter hour visits
Non - Residential Services - Housing Support - hourly rate		18.48	Outwith the Scope	0.00	18.48	19.04	Outwith the Scope	0.00	19.04	0.56	3.0%	Adjusted to be divisible by 4 to reflect quarter hour visits
Non - Residential Services - Employment Support - hourly rate		18.48	Outwith the Scope	0.00	18.48	19.04	Outwith the Scope	0.00	19.04	0.56	3.0%	Adjusted to be divisible by 4 to reflect quarter hour visits
Non - Residential Services -Sleepover Service - per night		104.04	Outwith the Scope	0.00	104.04	106.20	Outwith the Scope	0.00	106.20	0.00	2.1%	Rate increase reflects change in base to match Scottish Living Wage which is a Scottish Government requirement from 2018/19 onwards.
Non - Residential Services -Transport - per day		2.86	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.86	2.94	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.94	0.08	2.8%	Adjusted to be divisible by 2 to enable one-way charging
Non - Residential Services -Elderly Day Care - hourly rate		9.08	Outwith the Scope	0.00	9.08	9.36	Outwith the Scope	0.00	9.36	0.28	3.1%	Adjusted to be divisible by 4 to reflect quarter hour visits
Non - Residential Services -Learning Disability Resource Centre Service - hourly rate		24.00	Outwith the Scope	0.00	24.00	24.72	Outwith the Scope	0.00	24.72	0.72	3.0%	Adjusted to be divisible by 4 to reflect quarter hour visits
Provision of Occupational Therapy Consultation - Per assessment/consultation		251.89	Outwith the Scope	0.00	251.89	259.45	Outwith the Scope	0.00	259.45	7.56	3.0%	
Provision of Professional Services - Per Community Care Assessment/ Consultation		631.39	Outwith the Scope	0.00	631.39	650.33	Outwith the Scope	0.00	650.33	18.94	3.0%	
Provision of Professional Services - Full needs assessment only		479.36	Outwith the Scope	0.00	479.36	493.74	Outwith the Scope	0.00	493.74	14.38	3.0%	
Provision of Professional Services - Needs Review only		175.31	Outwith the Scope	0.00	175.31	180.57	Outwith the Scope	0.00	180.57	5.26	3.0%	
Children & Families - Local Authority Residential Care Provision: Dunclotha (weekly charge)		2,146.89	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,146.89	2,185.31	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,185.31	38.42	1.8%	Charge levied to other HSCPs/Councils buying places from Argyll and Bute.
Children & Families - Local Authority Residential Care Provision: Shellach View (weekly Charge)		2,000.69	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,000.69	2,080.21	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,080.21	79.52	4.0%	Charge levied to other HSCPs/Councils buying places from Argyll and Bute.
Children & Families - Local Authority Residential Care Provision: Helensburgh (weekly Charge)		1,972.27	Outwith the Scope	0.00	1,972.27	2,000.00	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,000.00	27.73	1.4%	Charge levied to other HSCPs/Councils buying places from Argyll and Bute.
Children & Families - Other Charges - Inter Country Adoptions		6,618.32	Outwith the Scope	0.00	6,618.32	6,816.87	Outwith the Scope	0.00	6,816.87	198.55	3.0%	
Inter-Authority Substitute Family Care Placements: Within Scotland	In line with British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) recommended figures		Outwith the Scope				Outwith the Scope					In line with British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) recommended figures.

Description	Other	2020/21				2021/22				Increase		Notes/Comments
		Net £	VAT Rate	VAT £	Gross £	Net £	VAT Rate	VAT £	Gross £	£	%	
<b>SOCIAL WORK</b>												
Inter-Authority Substitute Family Care Placements: Elsewhere - 1 child	In line with British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) recommended figures		Outwith the Scope				Outwith the Scope					In line with British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) recommended figures.
Inter-Authority Substitute Family Care Placements: Elsewhere - 2 children (siblings placed together)	In line with British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) recommended figures		Outwith the Scope				Outwith the Scope					In line with British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) recommended figures.
Inter-Authority Substitute Family Care Placements: Elsewhere - 3 children (siblings placed together)	In line with British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) recommended figures		Outwith the Scope				Outwith the Scope					In line with British Association of Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) recommended figures.
Hostel Charges - Room hire - children's hearing - half day		22.60	Exempt	0.00	22.60	23.30	Exempt	0.00	23.30	0.70	3.1%	
Hostel Charges - Room hire - children's hearing - Full day		37.75	Exempt	0.00	37.75	38.90	Exempt	0.00	38.90	1.15	3.0%	
Hostel Charges - Room hire - half day		37.75	Exempt	0.00	37.75	38.90	Exempt	0.00	38.90	1.15	3.0%	
Hostel Charges - Room hire - full day		67.90	Exempt	0.00	67.90	69.95	Exempt	0.00	69.95	2.05	3.0%	
Hostel Charges - Catering: Tea, Coffee and Biscuits		2.75	Standard	0.55	3.30	2.83	Standard	0.57	3.40	0.10	3.0%	
Hostel Charges - Catering: Soup and Sandwiches		5.38	Standard	1.08	6.46	5.54	Standard	1.11	6.65	0.19	2.9%	
Hostel Charges - Catering: Lunch (2 course with coffee)		8.21	Standard	1.64	9.85	8.46	Standard	1.69	10.15	0.30	3.0%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Argyll & Bute Council - Bed & Breakfast		31.46	Standard	6.29	37.75	32.42	Standard	6.48	38.90	1.15	3.0%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Argyll & Bute Council - Half Board		44.13	Standard	8.83	52.96	45.46	Standard	9.09	54.55	1.59	3.0%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Other Groups - Bed & Breakfast		31.46	Standard	6.29	37.75	32.42	Standard	6.48	38.90	1.15	3.0%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Other Groups - Half Board		44.13	Standard	8.83	52.96	45.46	Standard	9.09	54.55	1.59	3.0%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Other Groups - Full Board		50.38	Standard	10.08	60.46	51.88	Standard	10.38	62.25	1.79	3.0%	