A&B HSCP Transforming Together

Argyll & Bute Health & Social Care Partnership

Integration Joint Board **Agenda Item:**

Date of Meeting: 25 January 2023

Title: 2023/24 Social Work Fees and Charges

Presented by: Lorna Jordan

The board is asked to:

- Review and endorse the appended 2023/24 Social Work Fees and Charges proposals so that the proposals can be submitted to Argyll and Bute Council for ratification at its 2023/24 budget meeting.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides details of the proposed annual Social Work Fees and Charges uplifts for 2023/24. In accordance with normal practice, a standard uplift percentage has been applied to all of the department's fees and charges with several exceptions which are explained in the detail of the report. A standard rate of 6% has been applied for 2023 to partly reflect the current increased level of cost inflation whilst providing a buffer for service users from the latest actual inflation rate which is 11.1% - Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) for the 12 months to October 2022.

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 2023/24 budget meeting to seek ratification for their implementation from April 2023.

1.3 All Social Work Fees and Charges are included within this report with the exception of Kintyre Care Centre which is being evaluated and will follow at a later date.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report sets out the schedule of proposed fees and charges for Social Work services for the 2023/24 financial year. The detailed list of proposed charges, including the 2022/23 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 2023/24 after the application of a 6% annual inflationary uplift – there may be some minor variations due to rounding in the smaller charges.

3.2 The proposed charges for the following service areas are not calculated by applying a standard 6% 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 2023/24 which takes account of a number of inflationary assumptions across the range of costs incurred by the homes. The overall uplift for 2023/24 is 10%.

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 and to local people residing in the homes who own capital and assets exceeding £29,750 (threshold as at 2022/23). As at 5 December 2022, there are 14 self-funding clients out of 60 residents in the HSCP's care homes (equivalent to 23% of the current residents). The majority of residents, 77% 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.

The charges for Kintyre Care Centre are being evaluated and will follow at a later date once the transfer of the service to the HSCP is completed.

3.2.2 Sleepovers

The sleepover charge is based on an estimated basic pay rate which reflects the £0.40 per hour uplift to the minimum pay rate for staff working in adult social care as notified by the Scottish Government in their Budget Announcement in December. Please note that this rate is an estimate and actual rates may differ. Additionally, the rate has been adjusted to reflect the 1.25% decrease in Employer's National Insurance Contributions following the decision to reverse this from November 2022. The overall increase in the sleepover rate is 6%.

3.2.3 Domestic Home Care, Housing Support and Employment Support Provision

The hourly charges for domestic home care, housing support and employment support are all affected by the same changes to pay rates and Employer's National Insurance Contributions described in 3.2.2 above for sleepovers and are also impacted by inflation on non-pay costs in line with the Consumer Price Index. The overall increase in these charges is 9%.

3.2.4 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 2023/24 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 2023/24 budget meeting ahead of implementation of the new rates from April 2023.

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 2023/24 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 2023/24. 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 2023/24 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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APPENDIX 1 – 2023/24 SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

		2022-23				2023-24				Increase		
Description	Other	Net £	VAT Rate	VAT £	Gross £	Net £	VAT Rate	VAT £	Gross £	£	%	Notes/Comments
SOCIAL WORK												
Local Authority Residential Care Provision (Community Care) Weekly Charge		1,514.67	Outwith the Scope	0.00	1,514.67	1,660.78	Outwith the Scope	0.00	1,660.78	146.11	10%	
Non - Residential Services - Lunch Clubs - per meal		4.80	Outwith the Scope	0.00	4.80	5.10	Outwith the Scope	0.00	5.10	0.30	6%	
Non - Residential Services - Telecare - Community Alarms - per week		5.75	Outwith the Scope	0.00	5.75	6.10	Outwith the Scope	0.00	6.10	0.35	6%	
Non - Residential Services - Telecare - Care Assist System - per week		4.90	Outwith the Scope	0.00	4.90	5.20	Outwith the Scope	0.00	5.20	0.30	6%	
Non - Residential Services - Telecare - Mobile Devices and Monitoring - per week		2.75	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.75	2.90	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.90	0.15	5%	
Non - Residential Services - Telecare - Canary System - per week		2.15	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.15	2.25	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2.25	0.10	5%	
Non - Residential Services - Home Help - hourly rate		21.48	Outwith the Scope	0.00	21.48	23.40	Outwith the Scope	0.00	23.40	1.92	9%	Adjusted to reflect estimated changes in staff pay from April 2023.
Non - Residential Services - Housing Support - hourly rate		21.48	Outwith the Scope	0.00	21.48	23.40	Outwith the Scope	0.00	23.40	1.92	9%	Adjusted to reflect estimated changes in staff pay from April 2023.
Non - Residential Services - Employment Support - hourly rate		21.48	Outwith the Scope	0.00	21.48	23.40	Outwith the Scope	0.00	23.40	1.92	9%	Adjusted to reflect estimated changes in staff pay from April 2023.
Non - Residential Services -Sleepover Service - per night		119.88	Outwith the Scope	0.00	119.88	127.44	Outwith the Scope	0.00	127.44	7.56	6%	Adjusted to reflect estimed changes in staff pay from April 2023 and the 1.25% reduction in Employer's National Insurance Contributions from April 2023.
Non - Residential Services -Transport - per day		3.02	Outwith the Scope	0.00	3.02	3.20	Outwith the Scope	0.00	3.20	0.18	6%	Adjusted to be divisible by 2 to enable one-way charging
Non - Residential Services -Elderly Day Care - hourly rate		9.64	Outwith the Scope	0.00	9.64	10.20	Outwith the Scope	0.00	10.20	0.56	6%	Adjusted to be divisible by 4 to reflect quarter hour visits
Non - Residential Services -Learning Disability Resource Centre Service - hourly rate		25.48	Outwith the Scope	0.00	25.48	27.00	Outwith the Scope	0.00	27.00	1.52	6%	Adjusted to be divisible by 4 to reflect quarter hour visits
Provision of Occupational Therapy Consultation - Per assessment/consultation		267.23	Outwith the Scope	0.00	267.23	283.30	Outwith the Scope	0.00	283.30	16.07	6%	
Provision of Professional Services - Per Community Care Assessment/ Consultation		669.84	Outwith the Scope	0.00	669.84	710.00	Outwith the Scope	0.00	710.00	40.16	6%	
Provision of Professional Services - Full needs assessment only		508.55	Outwith the Scope	0.00	508.55	539.10	Outwith the Scope	0.00	539.10	30.55	6%	
Provision of Professional Services - Needs Review only		185.99	Outwith the Scope	0.00	185.99	197.10	Outwith the Scope	0.00	197.10	11.11	6%	

		2022-23				2023-24				Increase		
Description	Other	Net £	VAT Rate	VAT £	Gross £	Net £	VAT Rate	VAT £	Gross £	£	%	Notes/Comments
SOCIAL WORK												
Children & Families - Local Authority Residential Care Provision: Dunclutha (weekly charge)		2,158.13	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,158.13	2,285.08	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,285.08	126.95	6%	Charge levied to other HSCPs/Councils buying places from Argyll and Bute.
Children & Families - Local Authority Residential Care Provision: Shellach View (weekly Charge)		2,126.74	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,126.74	2,300.88	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,300.88	174.14	8%	Charge levied to other HSCPs/Councils buying places from Argyll and Bute.
Children & Families - Local Authority Residential Care Provision: Helensburgh (weekly Charge)		2,083.95	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,083.95	2,223.04	Outwith the Scope	0.00	2,223.04	139.09	7%	Charge levied to other HSCPs/Councils buying places from Argyll and Bute.
Children & Families - Other Charges - Inter Country Adoptions		7,021.38	Outwith the Scope	0.00	7,021.38	7,442.70	Outwith the Scope	0.00	7,442.70	421.32	6%	
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.
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		24.00	Exempt	0.00	24.00	25.45	Exempt	0.00	25.45	1.45	6%	
Hostel Charges - Room hire - children's hearing - Full day		40.05	Exempt	0.00	40.05	42.45	Exempt	0.00	42.45	2.40	6%	
Hostel Charges - Room hire - half day		40.05	Exempt	0.00	40.05	42.45	Exempt	0.00	42.45	2.40	6%	
Hostel Charges - Room hire - full day		72.05	Exempt	0.00	72.05	76.35	Exempt	0.00	76.35	4.30	6%	
Hostel Charges - Catering: Tea, Coffee and Biscuits		2.92	Standard	0.58	3.50	3.08	Standard	0.62	3.70	0.20	6%	
Hostel Charges - Catering: Soup and Sandwiches		5.71	Standard	1.14	6.85	6.04	Standard	1.21	7.25	0.40	6%	
Hostel Charges - Catering: Lunch (2 course with coffee)		8.71	Standard	1.74	10.45	9.25	Standard	1.85	11.10	0.65	6%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Argyll & Bute Council - Bed & Breakfast		33.38	Standard	6.68	40.05	35.38	Standard	7.08	42.45	2.40	6%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Argyll & Bute Council - Half Board		46.83	Standard	9.37	56.20	49.63	Standard	9.93	59.55	3.35	6%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Other Groups - Bed & Breakfast		33.38	Standard	6.68	40.05	35.38	Standard	7.08	42.45	2.40	6%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Other Groups - Half Board		46.83	Standard	9.37	56.20	49.63	Standard	9.93	59.55	3.35	6%	
Hostel Charges - accommodation - Other Groups - Full Board		53.42	Standard	10.68	64.10	56.63	Standard	11.33	67.95	3.85	6%	