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Date: 28th February 2022

RE: Consultation on Sefton Community Support Rate – 2022/23

I am writing in order to commence formal consultation with you on our proposed rates for the 2022/23 financial year.

The Council are proposing that the fee increase process will follow the established approach in terms of taking into account National Living Wage (NLW) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) rates / increases but will also take into account the impact of changes to National Insurance.

The Council are proposing a **6.83%** increase to fees resulting in the following rates being implemented (with effect from 1st April 2022):

Table detailing proposed 2022/23 Community Support rate

Duration / Service Element	2022/23 Proposed Rate	<i>2021/22 Rate</i>
1 Hour	£17.82	£16.68

In the spirit of openness and transparency the table below details how the **£17.82** has been arrived at. Please also note:

- Fees would be applicable from 1st April 2022
- The figures in the table below 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 above rate would also be applicable to Direct Payment recipients who utilise a CQC registered Agency.

Table detailing calculations for 2022/23 Community Support rate

Type of Cost	2021/22	2022/23 Proposed Rate	% Increase Applied	Notes
Carer Basic Rate	£9.15	£9.75	6.62%	
Travel Time	£0.92	£0.98	10% of £9.75	
Annual Leave	£1.07	£1.15	6.62%	
Training	£0.17	£0.18	6.62%	
Sickness	£0.19	£0.20	6.62%	
National Insurance	£0.44	£0.55	25.00%	28.7 average hours per week = salary of £14,591 ($£9.75 \times 28.7 / 7 \times 365$) - £14,591 - £9,100 NI threshold = £5,491. NI at 15.05% = £826. Therefore, 5.66% of basic pay
Pension	£0.17	£0.19	6.62%	
Mileage	£0.39	£0.41	6.62%	
Other costs	£3.69	£3.89	5.50% CPI	
Profit	£0.49	£0.52	3% on £17.30	
Hourly cost	£16.68	£17.82	6.83%	

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 in the proposals and tables above will cover the cost of delivering Community Support for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.
2. If you do not agree with the above rates, in particular if you consider that they will not cover the cost of delivering services, please provide budgeted costings, together with evidence of actual expenditure and a breakdown of your hourly rate, in support of your comments.

In addition, as part of the consultation we will also be holding a Microsoft Teams event with Providers on **Monday 7th March 2022 – 3pm to 4:30pm**. The link to this meeting is:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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 (<i>Letter to all providers to confirm proposals and consultation process</i>)	28 th February 2022
2	Period for Consultation Responses from Providers (<i>Providers to supply comments, information and evidence on the matters consulted on</i>)	28 th February 2022 – 10 th April 2022
3	Consultation event with Community Providers (Domiciliary Care, Supported Living, Community Support, Extra Care, Individual Service Funds)	7 th March 2022
4	Assessment and Analysis of Responses (<i>Assessment and analysis of comments, information and evidence supplied by Providers together with other information available to the Authority</i>)	11 th April 2022 – 22 nd April 2022
5	Work on proposals and Cabinet report (including draft Cabinet report internal review and FD/LD stages, and production of supporting documentation).	23 rd April 2022 – 8 th May 2022
6	Deadline for Cabinet report to be submitted	9 th May 2022
7	Letter to all Providers (<i>signposting them to Cabinet report - published the week in advance of the meeting</i>)	19 th May 2022
8	Cabinet Decision	26 th May 2022
9	2022/23 Fees Published (<i>Following expiry of "call-in" period for Decision</i>)	3 rd June 2022

The Consultation period will run until **Midnight on Sunday 10th April 2022** 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 advise me if you have any issues with this proposed timeline.

Please return your comments by e-mail to commissioningandcontracts@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 of Adult Social Care and Health