

**Report of Chief Officer, Resources & Strategy**

**Report to Director of Adults and Health**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Subject: FN31 – Standard Charges, Contributions, Rates and Allowances 2020/21**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report seeks approval for the adult social care standard charges, contributions, rates and allowances for 2020/21 included within Financial Staff Instruction FN31.
2. The proposal for most charges is an increase of 3% in accordance with the provision made in the 2020/21 budget being presented to Full Council 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
3. Rates and allowances have mainly been increased by 3%, except for those that are based on Department for Works and Pension rates.

**Recommendations**

4. That the proposed standard charges, contributions, rates and allowances for 2020/21 for the Adults and Health Directorate are approved.
5. To note that the standard charges, contributions, rates and allowances for 2020/21 are implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 by the Head of Finance, Adults and Health.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the adult social care standard charges, contributions, rates and allowances for 2020/21 included within Financial Staff Instruction FN31.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 These charges, contributions, rates and allowances are included within the financial element of the Directorate's Staff Instructions, and are referred to collectively as FN31. They are updated annually and most are effective from the start of April.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The table attached at Appendix 1 lists the various charges and allowances comprising FN31. It gives reasons for any major variations to the 2019/20 rates and details any changes to the way in which charges have been calculated year on year. Financial Staff Instruction FN31 is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 It is proposed that most **charges** will increase by 3% in accordance with the provision made in the 2020/21 budget being presented to Full Council 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- 3.3 The proposed **rates** and **allowances** have mainly been increased by 3%, except for those that are based on Department for Works and Pension rates.
- 3.4 The standard charges, rates and allowances are normally applicable from the first Monday in the financial year, which for 2020/21 is 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Where they are based on central government benefits rates, the benefits increase date is applied, which for 2020/21 is also 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020.
- 3.5 The weekly charges and contributions for accommodation services are calculated to be divisible by seven to give a daily charge rounded to the nearest 10p.
- 3.6 The maximum weekly charge for non-residential services has been increased to £476 per week, representing 85% of the cost of a typical residential care placement for older people. The fee is expected to be £560 per week as at the writing of the report. This basis was approved by Executive Board on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 as part of the report "Charging for Non-Residential Adult Social Care Services".
- 3.7 The flat rate sleep-in allowance, which was replaced by an hourly rate equivalent to the National Living Wage, has been uplifted to the announced 2020/21 rate of £8.72. This is applied to Direct Payments and Shared Lives Services.
- 3.8 Personal Assistant and Agency rates have been uplifted and are based on an expected home care rate based at £9.18 per hour. The rate may need to be changed as and when the framework fees for home care have been agreed and implemented. This is aimed at maintaining the relationship on the cost of procured 'home care' type support.

- 3.9 Within the Shared Lives service, basic weekly allowances to carers have increased by 10% to bring them in line with national averages for Shared Lives. In addition a number of other allowances have been added for this service.
- 3.10 A number of figures that determine the rates and charges are awaiting confirmation, once these are received any impact will be updated within the FN31.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Customer consultation regarding the proposals set out in this report is not specifically required as the decision to uplift fees by 3% is in line with the budget strategy that has already been the subject of consultation. This is therefore an operational rather than a policy matter, which applies annual inflationary increases in accordance with the Adult Social Care Charging and Contributions Policy Framework.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening document has been completed and is attached at Appendix 3. This has determined that it is not necessary to carry out a full assessment.
- 4.2.2 Within the Adult Social Care Charging and Contributions Policy Framework the Director of Adults and Health has the discretion to waive charges or service user contributions in individual circumstances if considered appropriate.

- 4.3 Council** 4.3.1 The proposals in this report are in accordance with the Department of Health's Care and Support Statutory Guidance (February 2018) and the Adult Social Care Charging and Contribution Policy Framework.

- 4.3.2 The services, to which these charges relate, support the Best City Outcome of people living with dignity and staying independent for as long as possible. These charges support the Best Council Plan value of spending money wisely.

### Climate Emergency

- 4.3.3 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019, with the stated ambition of working towards a carbon neutral city by 2030. In order to support the achievement of this, it is paramount that the impact on the climate is considered across all officer work. As a social care charging and allowances report there are no implications for the climate emergency.

- 4.4 value** 4.4.1 Provision has been made within the 2020/21 budget for the charges, contributions, rates and allowances proposed in this report.

- 4.5.1 There are no legal or access to information implications in this report and the decision is not subject to call in.
- 4.6.1 The proposals in this report are in accordance with the 2020/21 budget and the associated risk management arrangements.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 The annual updating of FN31 makes small changes to most charges, contributions, rates and allowances.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 That the Director of Adults and Health approves the proposed standard charges, contributions, rates and allowances for 2020/21 for the Adults and Health Directorate.
- 6.2 To note that the standard charges, contributions, rates and allowances for 2020/21 are implemented from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 by the Head of Finance, Adults & Health.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 7.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.