

**Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
New Road  
Oxford  
OX1 1ND**

Adult Social Care providers

**Karen Fuller  
Interim Corporate Director of  
Adults and Housing Services**

**2 March 2023**

Dear Provider,

**Re: Fee Uplift for 2023/24 – from 1 April 2023**

I am writing to confirm Oxfordshire County Council's Adult Social Care fee uplift offer which will be applied from 1 April 2023.

An uplift of 9% will be automatically applied to all services operating within Oxfordshire whose current rates are within the ceiling thresholds as outlined below. Providers can request a review of their fees if they are above these rates, or their services operate outside of Oxfordshire; please refer to the review process set out later in this letter.

<b>Services</b>	<b>Ceiling Threshold</b>	
	<i>2022/23</i>	<i>2023/24</i>
<b>Residential Care Homes (Weekly)</b>	£1,000.00	£1,090.00
<b>Nursing Care Homes (Weekly)</b>	£1,200.00	£1,393.00
<b>Homecare Support (Hourly)</b>	£25.20	£27.47
<b>Reablement (Episode)</b>	£1,017.60	£1,109.18
<b>Community Support (Hourly)</b>	£25.20	£27.47
<b>Extra Care Housing (On-Site Care - Weekly Charge)</b>	£59.24	£64.57
<b>Extra Care Housing (Hourly)</b>	£25.20	£27.47
<b>Supported Living (Hourly)</b>	£19.90	£21.69
<b>Supported Living (Weekly)</b>	£1,220.00	£1,330.00

We will also be increasing Direct Payment personal budgets by 9% to apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April. In such cases providers will be responsible for communicating any increase in fees to the DP holder. External day service fees will also be increased by 9%.

The FNC rate has not yet been confirmed nationally for 2023/24 We have increased the gross cost of nursing care placements inclusive of FNC by 9% up to £1,393.00/week. Depending on the FNC uplift that is announced, an appropriate adjustment may need to be made to account for any difference.

The uplift will not be applied to packages of care which are wholly funded by Health. The Integrated Care Board are considering their uplift for 2023/24, which will be applied in due course.

## **Rationale**

The 9.0% uplift is based on:

- Reflecting the increase in National Living Wage (NLW) on April 1<sup>st</sup> of 9.7% typically applies to 70% of provider costs.
- Reflecting the Office of Budget Responsibility forecast Consumer Price Index 2022/23 of 9.1% applies to 30% of costs.
- The National Insurance Health and Social Care Levy increase of 0.5% was applied in 2022/23. We have removed this following tax changes announced in November.

## **Consultation**

On 16th January we launched our consultation with care providers for the fee uplifts for the forthcoming financial year using the *Let's Talk* platform. The survey received 49 responses from care providers and associations of which 62.5% of responders agreed that we were considering the right indicators. A summary of responses can be found [here](#).

As a result of provider feedback, we have made the following changes:

- There was a clear theme linked to cost of care, high inflation, and workforce retention. The [Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund Grant](#) supports us to address this by improving on the fee increase anticipated through the council budget setting process. Without this fund the council would not have been in a position to increase fees to this level.
- Providers indicated that the review process can be time consuming. We have streamlined the process for providers who have previously submitted cost analysis tools as set out below.
- We will increase the rates on all legacy homecare packages to match the new ceiling threshold rate.

## **Review Process**

If your service isn't covered by this automatic uplift and you would like us to carry out a review of your individual circumstances, please:

1. Submit a request to [CareContractsPriceReview@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:CareContractsPriceReview@oxfordshire.gov.uk) together with the [cost analysis tool](#).
2. The panel will look at:
  - The care needs of the individual people
  - Unit costs
  - The host authority offer (if applicable)
3. You will be informed of the outcome from the panel. Any system changes required to allow payment will be made by the council.

Where you have completed a cost analysis tool which we have used to review fees for 2022/23 we will not ask you to repeat this in 2023/24 unless there are significant changes to your costs making it necessary.

More information on the Fee Uplift, Consultation and Fee Review process can be found on

the web site: [Fees and reviews | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who participated in this consultation; your input helped us to make meaningful changes to our approach. We want to continue working with you as we develop our market sustainability plan and commissioning strategies for Oxfordshire and your engagement is a fundamental part of getting this right.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Felstead', written in a cursive style.

Jason Felstead  
Lead for Quality Improvement  
Health, Education & Social Care Commissioning  
Oxfordshire County Council