

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting27th February 2020

1. Title of Item/Report

2020/21 Annual Increase in Older People's and Mental Health's Residential Care Home Fees

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet approval was sought for the annual increase in fees for older people's and mental health residential care homes within the borough.

The independent market for care and support was of fundamental importance to the local health and social care system and the Care Act 2014 required the Council to help develop a market that delivered a wide range of sustainable high quality care and support services that would be available to residents in the Borough of Stockton on Tees.

A duty was imposed to promote the efficient and effective operation of a market in services for meeting care and support needs and the matters of a local authority must have regard to in particular meeting that duty including "the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the market (in circumstances where it is operating effectively as well as in circumstances where is not).

The Act also provided that the local authority must act under the general guidance of the Secretary of State in the exercise of functions given to it. When buying and arranging these services the Council must consider carefully how they might affect an individual's well-being. There was also an obvious reputational risk for the Council and its partners such as the CCG in failing to sustain an appropriate choice of provision at the required quality. The Care Act also required the Council to pay a "fair price" for care and at the least to pay at a level consistent with the guidance and insuring the sustainability of the market. The Council wished to ensure that providers were able to meet their statutory responsibilities including payment of the national living wage while at the same time commissioning services that were cost-effective and offer value for money.

In March 2017, the Council took a decision to increase the fees payable to the independent care home sector. This decision followed a significant

engagement with the sector concerning the actual cost of delivering good quality care in Stockton on Tees. That decision which was based on significant evidence from providers, had provided the Council with a robust understanding of the Stockton-on-Tees market and the actual cost of care incurred in order to operate as an efficient care home provider in the Borough. It remained as an appropriate basis on which the Council had gone on to apply and uplift in subsequent years and therefore was again proposed for the financial year from the 1st of April 2020.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Cabinet set the rate paid to independent sector Care Homes For Older People for the financial year 2020-2021 as set out in Table A of the report.

2. Cabinet set the rate paid to independent sector for People With Mental Health Needs for the financial year 2020-2021 as set out in Table B of the report.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To enable Cabinet to approve the annual increase in care home fees from the baseline rate approved by Cabinet in March 2017.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Beall declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of this item as his mother was in a Care Home.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight Friday 6th March 2020

Proper Officer
02 March 2020