

## **APPENDIX A - COVID 19- Uplift to Adult Social Care Providers**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

The provision of care and support for vulnerable adults is a statutory requirement for Plymouth City Council. This includes the provision, where assessed as needed, of the following:

- Residential and nursing care
- Domiciliary care
- Extra Care housing
- Supported Living
- Day provision

The adult social care provider market has and continues to experience fragility, with a number of prominent provider failures over the last couple of years. One of these led to the Council needing to establish the Independence at Home service to ensure that critical support continued to be provided. There are ongoing challenges to the recruitment and retention of staff in the care sector and in ensuring that the quality of provision remains high.

### **2. IMPACT OF COVID**

The COVID 19 outbreak has placed additional strain on adult social care providers in ensuring that staff are able and willing to continue to work in a challenging environment, managing staff absence and in securing additional PPE. Other costs have risen, such as some types of food where supply is scarce.

Adult Social Care is critically important to ensuring that vulnerable adults are safely cared for, both to prevent unnecessary hospital admission and to support discharge from acute settings. This reduces the strain on the acute health system, a key priority during COVID.

There is also a need to ensure that the sector is able to continue operating safely once the current crisis is over, and able to adapt and innovate to provide new models of integrated care and support.

### **3. PROPOSAL**

Funding is available from central government to support local authorities to continue to provide critical services during COVID 19. Whilst not ring-fenced, it has been made clear that a significant proportion of this funding should be directed to Adult social Care to ensure that the provision of services for vulnerable adults is safeguarded.

It is proposed to provide a 5% uplift in fees to the following service areas for an initial period of three months:

- Residential and nursing care
- Domiciliary care
- Extra Care housing
- Supported Living
- Shared Lives

Day provision is excluded from this as the services are not currently being provided in their usual form, to reduce the risk of COVID transmission.

In addition providers will also be guaranteed a minimum payment each week that is linked to either their contracted amounts, for Supported Living, or the payment made to providers for the week 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020, uplifted for 2020/21 rates. Therefore, if, by no fault of their own, their clients either don't want a service or they have fewer clients, providers will know that they will receive a certain payment each week. This is essential to maintain provider sustainability during an uncertain period.

These approaches mirror advice being provided by Association Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and the Local Government Association that outlines providers are faced with additional pressures and some of the government grant should be utilized to meet these. This guidance indicated that costs would vary depending on local circumstances. As such we will continue to review this situation and have notified providers that should they be experiencing financial difficulties then we consider on a case by case basis.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact of these proposals is set out below.

Provision	Impact of 5% uplift for 3 months	Forecast of Minimum Payments	Total Impact
Residential and nursing care	£0.458m	£0.000m	<b>£0.458m</b>
Domiciliary care / Extra Care Housing	£0.169m	£0.383m	<b>£0.552m</b>
Supported Living	£0.220m	£0.302m	<b>£0.522m</b>
Shared Lives	£0.002m	£0.000m	<b>£0.002m</b>
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£0.849m</b>	<b>£0.685m</b>	<b>£1.534m</b>

It is therefore proposed to apply a 5% uplift for a period of three months and to ensure that providers received a minimum guaranteed payment for the same period, to then be reviewed if the COVID 19 emergency is still in place.

**END OF REPORT**