

Care home fees, free personal and nursing care and personal expenses allowances for 2019/20 – Increase in fees approved.

5 With reference to the minutes of 21st March 2019 (Print 7, page 583) instructing the Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership to submit to a future meeting a revised social care charging policy, effective from 1st April 2019, Councillor Mhairi Hunter, presented a report regarding the matter, advising that

- (1) to realign the free personal and nursing care fees with inflation, the Scottish Government had decided that the rates for 2018/19 be increased from £174 to £177 per week and from £79 to £80 per week respectively, subject to Parliamentary approval and the Department for Work and Pensions had increased the minimum personal allowance from £27.00 to £27.50 per week from 1st April 2019;
- (2) the cost of these uplifts to Social Work Services of £0.158m would be funded by the additional monies provided to integration authorities in 2019/20 for social care;
- (3) Telecare was a strategic priority for Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and preparation for the analogue to digital switch would be required to be done by 2025 to comply with the analogue to digital national policy and in keeping with the current cost model it was proposed that Telecare service users would make a contribution to the cost of supplying this on an ongoing basis, with the cost for 2019/20 being £1.50 per week;
- (4) the social care charging policy sets out the Council's Social Work Services charging policy with a focus on non-residential charging and the policy, as detailed in an Appendix to the report, had been updated to reflect the introduction of free personal care to adults aged under 65, alongside standard annual rate charges, including the new charge proposed for Telecare services;
- (5) the National Care Home Contract (NCHC) financial settlement for 2019/20 required all providers delivering publicly funded care to pay all care workers, regardless of age, experience or time in employment, a minimum of £9 per hour from 1st May 2019 and it also committed providers employing registered nurses and delivering publicly funded care to pay nurses on average Agenda for Change band 5B; and
- (6) the cost to the Integration Joint Board of the uplift for the NCHC would be £2.38m, which would be funded by the additional monies provided to integration authorities in 2019/20 for social care and a rate of 3.39% had been applied to nursing care and 3.40% for residential care, with the rates applicable from 8th April 2019 being detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) approved

- (i) the new charge for Telecare (digital); and
 - (ii) the revised social care charging policy, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (b) agreed to vary the NCHC contract in line with the conditions detailed in the report; and
- (c) noted
 - (i) the free personal and nursing care payment rates and the increase in the personal expenses allowance from 8th April 2019; and
 - (ii) that the increase to Social Work Services expenditure of £2.608m was funded by the additional monies provided to integration authorities in 2019/20 for social care and the Scottish Living Wage.