

National Care Home Contract - Increase Agenda for Change 2024/25 approved.

5 Councillor Cunningham, City Convener for Health, Care & Caring and Older People, presented a report regarding an increase to the National Care Home Contract (NCHC) fee rate for 2024/25, advising that

- (1) the NCHC was subject to national negotiations which sets the rates that would apply for 2024/25 and the expectations in relation to the payment of the Adult Social Care pay rate by providers;
- (2) the Scottish Government on 28th October 2024 had advised local authorities that the final settlement for 2024/25 had now been concluded and that a rate of 7.71% be applied to nursing care and 8.3% for residential care from 8th April 2024, with these rates being applied to the NCHC and other commissioned services and that domestic and catering support staff be paid the minimum wage of £11.44 per hour;
- (3) the cost of this uplift was £1.216m taking the total cost of the uplift for 2024/25 to £9.102m and provision had been made in the Integration Joint Board's 2024/25 budget to meet this commitment;
- (4) the NCHC would be varied to ensure that any provider delivering publicly funded care must pay all direct care workers a minimum of £12 per hour and, agree that remuneration could be periodically monitored by the commissioning authority, including direct verification with employees of the provider and that there would be no displacement of any other costs onto staff by the employer; and
- (5) an increase in pay of 5.5% for nurses had been included within the settlement in line with the agreed Agenda for Change pay increase.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) agreed to
 - (i) vary the National Care Home contract to reflect the National Health Service pay uplift, as detailed in the report; and
 - (ii) apply the National Care Home contract uplift to commissioned Services, as detailed in the appendix to the report; and
- (b) noted the additional increase to Social Work Services expenditure of £1.216m.