









WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

TITLE:*	Adult Social Care Services Annual Fee Uplift																						
Decision Taken By:	Mark Fitton, Strategic Director, Adults and Communities (DASS)																						
Cabinet Member	Susan Eacock, Cabinet Member with Responsibility Adult Social Care																						
Decision Made*	<p>To record annual fee review decisions for Adult Social Care services (home care and residential settings) following engagement with all providers.</p> <p>Funding for the uplifts has been built into the 2026/27 revenue budget as approved by Council in February 2026.</p> <p>The uplifts approved are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SERVICE</th> <th>Fee increase based on:</th> <th>ESTIMATED COST (£m)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Domiciliary care</td> <td>To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase fees by 2.87% with additional contractual changes in relation to late cancellation and hospital discharge Sub-total </td> <td>£1,275,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extra Care</td> <td>To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the fees by 3.2% Sub-total </td> <td>£107,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Supported Living</td> <td>To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a 2.87% investment as follows: 3.3% increase on DPS Tier prices and Up to 3.3% increase on non-DPS care packages Sub-total </td> <td>£1,607,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shared Lives</td> <td>To increase all care packages by 2.87% Sub-total</td> <td>£50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Under 65 Residential care / nursing care</td> <td>To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a 2.87% investment as follows: 3.3% awarded on packages uplifted in 2025/6 and Up to 3.3% increase to packages not uplifted in 2025/6 Sub-total </td> <td>£1,329,228</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+ residential care / nursing care</td> <td>To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uplift packages by 2.87% Sub-total </td> <td>2,540,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		SERVICE	Fee increase based on:	ESTIMATED COST (£m)	Domiciliary care	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase fees by 2.87% with additional contractual changes in relation to late cancellation and hospital discharge Sub-total	£1,275,000	Extra Care	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the fees by 3.2% Sub-total	£107,000	Supported Living	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a 2.87% investment as follows: 3.3% increase on DPS Tier prices and Up to 3.3% increase on non-DPS care packages Sub-total	£1,607,000	Shared Lives	To increase all care packages by 2.87% Sub-total	£50,000	Under 65 Residential care / nursing care	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply a 2.87% investment as follows: 3.3% awarded on packages uplifted in 2025/6 and Up to 3.3% increase to packages not uplifted in 2025/6 Sub-total	£1,329,228	65+ residential care / nursing care	To <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uplift packages by 2.87% Sub-total	2,540,000
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	Day Services	Negotiation with DPS providers based on previous years uplifts and maximum fee rates. 2.87% on spot contracts and a 2.4% increase to transport fees which were not uplifted in 2025/26 Sub-total	£160,000
	Contingency	Held for case-by-case needs Sub-total	£900,000
	TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS OF ABOVE UPLIFTS		£7,968,228
Is this Report Exempt as per Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	No		
Decision taken under the following delegation:	The Strategic Director, Adults and Communities is implementing the fee increases in line with his general duties as laid out within the Officers Scheme of Delegation, which is part of the Scheme of Assignment of Responsibility for Functions, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Council's Constitution <u>2025 02 APPENDIX 1 Delegations - Update.pdf</u>		
Division(s) Affected	All divisions across the County where clients reside.		
Date of Decision*	11 March 2026		
Summary of Decision*	To utilise in full the budget as allocated for the review of fees paid to adult social care providers as per the response below		
Reason(s) For Decision*	<p>Annually, Worcestershire County Council reviews fees in line with contract, based on an assessment of care need, market forces and the Councils ability to pay.</p> <p>The Council still has the ability to review fees on a case-by-case basis where required, where care needs change.</p>		
Alternative Options Considered and Rejected	<p>Council values the care provided to our residents by providers. The current emphasis nationally, regionally and locally is around the increased demand and requirement for care in the home rather than in residential settings, based on client choice and the improved outcomes of maintaining supported independent living.</p> <p>By not taking this decision, Worcestershire Health and Care system would have become severely compromised.</p>		
Summary of any financial implications	The figures in this report are based on information of clients in service at the time of calculation. £7.968m of budget has been identified for 2026/27 to fund increase in fees payable to external care providers.		

<p>Summary of any legal implications</p>	<p>The Care Act 2014 places a duty on councils to “promote the efficient and effective operation of a market in services for meeting care and support needs.” In delivering this statutory obligation, councils must ensure the sustainability of the market and that there are sufficient high quality services available to meet the care and support needs of adults in their area. The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget.</p> <p>The authority is satisfied it has and continues to perform its duties under s5 Care Act 2014 in promoting the efficient and effective operation of a market in services for meeting care and support needs with a view to ensuring that any person in its area wishing to access services in the market has a wide variety of providers and high-quality services to choose from.</p>
<p>Consultation process and results</p>	<p>Commissioners engaged with the care markets to seek information in relation to the fee uplift proposals in February 2026, inviting comments via a questionnaire and via formal letter if preferred. Providers were also invited to put forward issues (other than fees) that would assist in the running of their organisations. The responses have been analysed and presented to the Directorate for decision. Providers will be formally notified of the outcomes. This notification will be issued no later than 31 March 2026.</p>
<p>Equality duty Implications</p>	<p>The JIA screening did not identify any potential considerations requiring further assessment during implementation – these uplifts are a contractual requirement for the payment of fees for services that have undergone full assessment.</p>
<p>Social Value Implications</p>	<p>None – this relates to the payment of fees to contracted providers delivering services.</p>
<p>Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted*</p>	<p>None known or identified</p>
<p>Background documents*</p>	<p>     2026-27 - Domiciliary 2026-27 - Extra Care 2026-27 - over 65s 2026-27 - Positive Care fees review - WC fee review - WCC.pdf care homes fees review Days fee review - WC    2026-27 - Shared 2026-27 - Supported 2026-27 - U65 res Lives fee review - WCLiving fee review - WCCare fee review - WCC </p>
<p>Signature</p>	
<p>Reference/Date Published</p>	<p>23 March 2026</p>

Monitoring Officer Review needed	Yes/No (delete as appropriate)
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*Legal Requirement