

Public Document Pack

Officer Decisions

Friday, 23rd April, 2021

AGENDA

- 1. Supporting People Provider Fee uplifts for the 2021/22
Financial Year**
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EIA-Checklist SP budget increase 2021 22

Date Published: 23rd April 2021
Denise Park, Chief Executive

Agenda Item 1

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION – Part 3 Section 16



**DELEGATED
OFFICER DECISION
TAKEN BY:
PORTFOLIO
AREA:**

**Director of Adult Services and Prevention
(DASS)**

Adult Services and Prevention

SUBJECT: Supporting People Provider Fee uplifts for the 2021/2022 Financial Year

1. DECISION

Agree to a percentage increase of 2% for Supporting People contracts. Supporting People providers are commissioned on a block contract basis and will receive an uplift of 2% effective from 1 April 2021.

2. REASON FOR DECISION

Supporting People (SP) is primarily a housing based support programme for vulnerable people. The objective of SP is to promote preventative support, and to help vulnerable people maintain independent and sustainable living. It provides much needed services for the homeless and people with mental health and substance misuse issues.

2020 and 2021 have proved to be exceptional years for the housing care and support sector due to the Covid 19 pandemic; the issues faced by providers during the pandemic will have an enduring impact on the housing care and support market. The Council is beginning to see inflation/general costs for providers which are much higher than in previous years.

The budget was reduced at the last major review and any further reductions would affect viability of services.

All these factors have been taken into account alongside the issue of affordability and the 2021/22 provider uplifts have been recommended in line with the current Medium Term Financial Strategy and included in the Adults and Prevention Portfolio budget.

All current supporting people provider contracts are due to expire as of end of March 2022.

The proposal ensures that any statutory housing needs are protected within the suggested changes.

This proposal will assist the Council's efforts to ensure that there is a supported housing market to provide for the needs of the local community. This includes the need to ensure that providers can remain viable, and can attract and retain staff to provide the support to the required standard.

3. BACKGROUND

The current Supporting People (SP) programme funds a range of supported housing and other housing related support services aimed at enabling people who need help to develop independent living skills or maintain independence in the community, either in accommodation services or in a person's own home regardless of tenure (floating support). The provision is part of the council's non-statutory offer.

The primary client group categories that continue to be supported by SP funding include:

- Older people with support needs
- Single homeless
- Homeless families
- People with mental health problems
- People with drug & alcohol issues
- Young People at risk
- People at risk of offending/offenders

4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

It is necessary to ensure that a high level of quality provision for service users of supported and care housing provision remains a priority, whilst delivering the best value for money. It is necessary to provide an inflationary uplift to keep services viable. Without an uplift, it would amount to a cut in real terms and would have a significant impact on service delivery and service viability.

The current supporting people contracts are due to expire in April 2022 and a full strategic review of services will be undertaken at the end of this year. A more detailed review of Supporting People services for Young People at Risk is being undertaken at present in conjunction with Childrens Services.

This proposal is made in light of a variety of additional Covid 19 costs.

Supporting People contracts are commissioned on a block contract basis and will receive an uplift of 2% from April 1st 2021.

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 - Increase the block contracts for Supporting People contracts by 2%.

The table below sets out the proposed uplift of 2% for Supporting People:

Supporting People Budget 2020/21	£1,370,514
Supporting People 2% increase	£27,410
New SP budget for 2021/22	£1,397,924

The uplifts are proposed in order to meet the rising costs and maintain viability of services. All these factors have been taken into account alongside the issue of affordability and the 2021/22 provider uplifts have been recommended in line with the commissioning budgets included in the 2021/22 budget, and provision in the Medium Term Finance Strategy (MTFS).

Option 2 – Do not increase the block contracts by 2%

It is considered detrimental to service delivery and viability if a 2% increase in line with inflationary increases is not applied to Supporting People contracts.

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST


All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

None

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Zoe Evans, Head of Service, Strategic Commissioning (People) and ASC Finance
DATE:	22 March 2021
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	N/A

Signed: I have considered the proposal and it is in line with the broader changes we have made for fees and charges overall. Given the challenges we have faced and continue to face during covid it has been an extra ordinary year and will continue to pose challenges ahead.

 Director	Date: 20/04/2021
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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

This checklist is to be used when you are uncertain if your activity requires an EIA or not.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool for identifying the potential impact of the organisation's policies, services and functions on its residents and staff. EIAs should be actively looking for negative or adverse impacts of policies, services and functions on any of the nine protected characteristics.

The checklist below contains a number of questions/prompts to assist officers and service managers to assess whether or not the activity proposed requires an EIA. Supporting literature and useful questions are supplied within the [EIA Guidance](#) to assist managers and team leaders to complete all EIAs.

Service area & dept.	Social Care Accommodation, Strategic Commissioning (People)	Date the activity will be implemented	01/04/2021
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Brief description of activity	The current Supporting People (SP) programme funds a range of supported housing and other housing related support services aimed at enabling people who need help to develop independent living skills or maintain independence in the community, either in accommodation services or in a person's own home regardless of tenure (floating support). The provision is part of the council's non-statutory offer.
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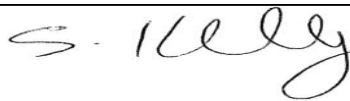
Answers favouring doing an EIA	Checklist question	Answers favouring not doing an EIA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Does this activity involve any of the following: - Commissioning / decommissioning a service - Budget changes - Change to existing Council policy/strategy 2% increase in line with Adult Social Care budget increase.	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Does the activity impact negatively on any of the protected characteristics as stated within the Equality Act (2010)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Is there a sufficient information / intelligence with regards to service uptake and customer profiles to understand the activity's implications?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Does this activity: Contribute towards unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act <i>(i.e. the activity creates or increases disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristic)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Reduce equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not <i>(i.e. the activity fail to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure	Foster poor relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not <i>(i.e. the function prevents people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
FOR =1	TOTAL	AGAINST =5

Will you now be completing an EIA?

Yes

No

The EIA toolkit can be found [here](#)

Assessment Lead Signature	
Checked by departmental E&D Lead	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Date	Click here to enter a date.
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