



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

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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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