



**Issue 20 – 1 February 2023**

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## **The future of adult social care**

### **Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability Plan**

In line with guidance from the DHSC, the council is today publishing its [Fair Cost of Care \(FCOC\) 'Annex B' reports](#). The reports are published in the format set out by the DHSC and describe the findings of the residential and home care FCOC surveys. As well as publishing the key cost of care figures, the report describes some of the issues encountered in conducting the exercise, such as a low response rate in the home care survey, and the need for caution when considering the results. However, the surveys have yielded valuable insights, which have fed into the Market Sustainability Plan (MSP) and will inform future fee setting in these markets.

Allied to the FCOC, the council is also required to produce an MSP for the residential and home care markets. The [provisional MSP](#) was agreed by Cabinet and submitted to DHSC in October 2022. We will be submitting a final MSP to the DHSC at the end of March 2023, which will take account of changes made by the Autumn Statement, and would welcome providers' comments on the provisional report to [dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk](mailto:dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk) by the end of February.

### **Proposed fee uplifts for 2023/24**

Separately to the FCOC work the council will communicate the proposed inflationary increase in fees for the financial year 2023/24 for the key markets: residential care, home care, supported living and community life choices. Providers have been engaged throughout December and January with discussions focussed on key pressures which have helped to shape our proposals.

For more information please contact [dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk](mailto:dave.pruden@leics.gov.uk)

### **Preparing for CQC assurance – seeking providers' views**

The Health and Care Act 2022 introduced a new assurance process, whereby from April 2023 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will assess councils on their performance in delivering Care Act duties, using a single assessment framework. This will put adults' services on a similar basis to children's services, in which councils are inspected regularly by Ofsted and subject to Government intervention where required.

To support our preparations for inspection by the CQC, we are developing a 'Self-Assessment' to set out our understanding of our performance and where we need to improve. This will be accompanied by an 'Improvement Plan' which will set out our plans to improve services over the next 12 months.

To help inform our Self-Assessment and Improvement Plan, we are keen to hear the views of all local care providers – particularly on areas such as care market sufficiency and development needs and how satisfied providers are with the Council's commissioning and contract monitoring arrangements as well as the level of communication, engagement and support from the Council. We will therefore be

running live interactive sessions to gather feedback from providers during the February [provider forum meetings](#).

If you are unable to attend these meetings, we would be very grateful if you could take 5 mins to complete [this survey](#), which will close on 14 February. Thank you.

## **Guidance and good practice**

### **Preparing for possible power disconnections**

Each year, the [National Grid](#) plans ahead to ensure enough power is available over winter. This year, it's unlikely that gas supplies will run out, and plans are in place to resolve this if it does happen.

But, if the planned mitigations aren't enough, there may be temporary disconnections to electricity supplies in certain post code areas. This means that some customers could be without power – possibly for around three hours at a time.

#### **What are we doing locally?**

All local councils, along with their partners, are being asked to do some planning for this unlikely scenario.

Because some disconnections could happen without warning, organisations should review their business continuity plans.

#### **What can you do to plan?**

*Find out which area you're in*

Each area has a 'block letter' which can be found at [www.powercut105.com](http://www.powercut105.com) or on your energy bill. The block letter assigned to your area will be a letter from A-U.

The block letter tells you which area might be disconnected. Areas will be chosen during the incident and not beforehand.

Energy providers must communicate which block letters will be disconnected by 5:30pm the day before. To avoid delay in enacting your business continuity plans, ensure you know your block letter.

*Know the difference between priority and protected*

Energy providers will try to keep sites on the 'Protected List' connected. There are strict requirements to go on this list.

Adult social care providers, care homes, and GP surgeries do not currently meet these requirements.

Being on the 'Priority Services Register' doesn't protect your energy supply. It just means you have access to additional support during a disruption. However, the support available during a widespread or prolonged outage may be limited.

### Further information and links

- [Power cut planning information](#)
- A [printable 'winter ready' leaflet](#) for adult social care providers
- [What happens during an energy shortage](#)
- [Power cut information for care providers](#)

### What should I consider as part of my business continuity plan?

The sorts of things to consider are:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Issues for individuals                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical needs</li> <li>• Mobility needs</li> </ul>   |
| Lighting will likely go out              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be prepared with alternative sources of lights, e.g. torches (with batteries if needed). If you have a mobile phone, you may also be able to use it as a torch</li> <li>• There is a risk that candles, or paraffin heaters can cause fires</li> </ul>   |
| Heating may stop working                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most heating systems, including gas boilers, rely on electricity and so won't work in a power cut. This may limit your access to hot water</li> <li>• If you have a wood or coal fire, make sure you keep supplies of fuel</li> <li>• Ensure you have a working carbon monoxide alarm which is tested regularly</li> </ul> |
| Electrical cooking appliances won't work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have a gas hob and/or oven, these will still work, but you may need to use a gas lighter. Take extra care</li> <li>• Do not use barbecues indoors - they generate toxic gases including carbon monoxide, which can kill</li> </ul>  |
| Communications may be affected           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cordless phones will not work, and mobile phone networks might also be affected. However, most traditional plug-in phones should still work</li> <li>• Broadband, data services and wi-fi are also likely to be affected</li> </ul>  |

### COVID-19 PPE guide for adult social care services and settings

The national resource outlining [PPE advice for health and social care staff working in the community](#) has been updated to highlight when mask wearing is recommended, for example when caring for someone known or suspected to have COVID-19, or if a staff member / visitor lives in the same household with someone who has had a positive test result for COVID-19.

## **Leicestershire County Council updates**

### **Live-in care**

A new procedure has been agreed for staff who commission live-in care, and this will go live for all live-in care packages starting from 23 January 2023.

The guidance includes proposed prices which take into account that there is no travel time needing to be paid. The table below shows the indicative weekly cost for individuals requiring between 8 and 16 hours of care per day (including 'double-ups' where required for moving and handling):

| <i>Average hours per 24-hour period</i> | <i>Weekly cost (£)</i> |
|---|------------------------|
| 8                                       | £1,030.88              |
| 10                                      | £1,229.44              |
| 12                                      | £1,428.00              |
| 14                                      | £1,626.56              |
| 16                                      | £1,825.12              |

The table is based on an hourly cost of providing care of between £16.30 and £18.41 per hour. The basis of the calculation is the same as that used to determine the banded maintenance rates from April 2022 for the Home Care for Leicestershire (HCL) Framework.

The brokerage team will send providers the package requirement and providers who wish to be considered for the care package should complete the quality method statement response and send it back to the Business Support team [A&C-businesssupportservices@leics.gov.uk](mailto:A&C-businesssupportservices@leics.gov.uk) who will forward the information to the commissioning worker for evaluation. When the package is agreed the commissioning worker will arrange the care with the provider.

Providers will need to outline their understanding of live-in care and why they are the most suitable provider to deliver this service for the specific needs of the service user. Providers should be aware of the requirements of the HCL Service Specification, as published with the tender information, specifically paragraphs in section 5.9.6 – 5.9.12.

If you have any queries relating to payment issues, please contact the Finance Operations team [ehcmpayments@leics.gov.uk](mailto:ehcmpayments@leics.gov.uk)

Please contact Colleen Smith with any other queries at [colleen.smith@leics.gov.uk](mailto:colleen.smith@leics.gov.uk) or 0116 305 8369.

### **Next edition**

The next edition of Provider News will be published during week commencing 13 February 2023. If you are interested in contributing by writing about a topic of your choice, perhaps something that is particularly important to you, please contact us at [enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk](mailto:enquirylinequality&contracts@leics.gov.uk).