

Have your say on the Residential and Nursing Care Fee Review



Tell us how this might affect you.

Online: resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/provider-fee-review

For general enquiries or comments about this consultation phone

0116 305 0232 or e-mail ASCengage@leics.gov.uk

Public consultation: Please submit your views by midnight on

Wednesday 9 January 2019

Leicestershire County Council is conducting a review of the fees it pays for residential and nursing care home placements in the county, the services it expects for those fees, and the way in which it makes placements.

This consultation is your opportunity to comment on the council's draft proposals.

Why is the Council making these changes?

The current arrangements for determining the fees for care homes in Leicestershire have not been reviewed since 2011. Since then new responsibilities have been placed on the council by the Care Act 2014. Similarly, the core contract and specification for residential care have not been reviewed since 2012. These documents need to be revised to reflect the Care Act changes as well as the changes made following this consultation.

The council's overall aim is to support people to live at home for as long as possible to reduce the need for residential and nursing care services and develop alternative accommodation options such as Extra Care. This approach is described in Promoting independence, Supporting Communities; Our vision and strategy for adult social care 2016–2020 and can be found [here](#).

However, the council recognises the vital contribution that care and nursing homes make in Leicestershire and that for many people a care home is the only service that can offer the care and support needed. With over 2,000 people supported by the council in care homes, some 180 homes in the county and expenditure in the region of £86m per annum, this is a critically important part of the adult social care market.

The Consultation

The consultation on this review will be in two stages; stage 1, this consultation, seeks care home providers' views about the proposed changes to the structure and processes involved in making and reviewing residential and nursing care placements.

Stage 2 of the consultation, which is likely to be in March 2019, will seek views on the proposed fee levels for the financial year 2019/20 (commencing April 2019) and plans for the transfer of current residents to the new system.

The project established to undertake this review commenced work in April 2018 building on earlier work, and is expected to complete the review by June 2019. The agreed fees payable will be backdated to April 2019 and the new arrangements put into place during the 2019/20 fiscal year.

As part of this review the council has undertaken provider engagement work with a Provider Reference Group which met on five occasions between April 2018 and October 2018. A report setting out the key issues discussed is available [here](#).

EMCARE, the trade organisation that represents many residential and nursing care providers across Leicestershire, has been engaged with and supported the work of the Provider Reference Group.

There is no budget reduction target associated with this review. The council recognises that inflationary and demographic pressures are likely to increase expenditure in this area.

The council has also undertaken an Equality and Human Rights (EHRIA) screening assessment which can be found [here](#). A full impact assessment will be completed before any changes are agreed and implemented.

Proposals for consultation

Proposal 1 – A Two Band Approach for Older Adults

The replacement of the current system which consists of five residential bands and one single nursing band with a two-band system that will be used to calculate fees for Older Adult placements. It will still be possible in exceptional circumstances to pay a Supplementary Needs Allowance to be determined on a case-by-case basis. The draft band definitions are [here](#).

In the council's view the benefits of this approach are that it will cater for the needs of all potential service users, including those with complex needs; will simplify placement processes and improve efficiency. It is also an approach that is used by the majority of councils and is familiar to the market.

Proposal 2 – Use of the National Care Funding Calculator for Working Age Adults (WAAs)

The council intends to continue to use the National Care Funding Calculator to commission placements into Working Age Adult care homes, but to revise it to include a standardised set of "hotel costs" for Leicestershire.

The benefits of this approach are that it will cater for the needs of all Working Age Adults, most of whom will have complex needs. Standardising the hotel cost element will improve efficiency, consistency and equity in agreeing the cost of these placements.

Proposal 3 – A review of the council's standard cost template

Alongside Proposals 1 and 2, the council will review its Standard Cost Model to determine the two Older Adult bands and the WAAs hotel costs; the draft template is [here](#).

Proposal 4 – Annual Fee Review

It is the council's intention that the proposed two-band system and use of the National Care Funding Calculator approach will be in place for at least four years before there is a subsequent fundamental review. During the four-year period, it is proposed that annual fee reviews will be undertaken using an agreed methodology that will be linked to the National Living Wage and inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index and implemented without further consultation.

In line with the current contractual arrangements, Third Party Top-ups will also be reviewed annually in April each year.

Proposal 5 – Out of County Placements

Currently, the council pays fees for out of county placements in line with those of the local authority in which the home is located. Some local authorities pay out of county providers the same rates as those it pays for care in its own local authority area. The council is seeking the views of providers on these different approaches.

Proposal 6 – Core Contract and Specification Refresh

The residential and nursing care core contract and specification was last reviewed in 2012. These documents will be updated to take account of changes in legislation, regulation and best practice.

The council is also exploring a revision of the Individual Placement Agreement (IPA), including its approach to the use and administration of Third Party Top-ups and a proposal to implement a system for using electronic signatures.

Alongside this, the council is proposing the removal of the Quality Assessment Framework (QAF) payments and will instead set out revised standards of care in the updated contract specification. The intention is to align the council's quality requirements with those required by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to achieve the 'Good' rating, at which over 80% of Leicestershire homes are currently rated.

The benefits of these proposals are that the quality requirements will be embedded within the contract which will apply to all providers, rather than in the voluntary QAF scheme which less than half of the providers in Leicestershire have adopted. It also enables the council to focus its quality improvement work on those providers that are rated by the CQC as 'Require Improvement' and 'Inadequate'.

Further, providers will have improved clarity and transparency about the expected standards of care. They can also focus quality improvement work on the CQC requirements, in the knowledge that they will be meeting the council's expectations too.

Proposed contract and specification changes also include:

1. Strengthening terms and conditions regarding suspension related to a CQC rating of inadequate.
2. The proposed draft Banding Definitions for Older Adult placements can be seen [here](#).
3. Amending the requirements relating to the supply of information to the council, including use of the Provider Portal.
4. Clarifying provider training requirements.

How will the consultation work?

Visit <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/provider-fee-review> to complete the questionnaire or you can attend one of the consultation information and discussion meetings detailed on page 6 or you can contact a Lead Commissioner to discuss the fee review and consultation.

To book a place, please email your contact details to ACCengage@leics.gov.uk and specify the meeting you would like to attend. Confirmation of your place will be sent to you via email.

Providers, other organisations with an interest in the fee review and members of the public can also contact one of the project Lead Commissioners, Dave Pruden or Julie Drake, if they have any questions by emailing ASCengage@leics.gov.uk or by calling **0116 305 0232**.

Programme of Consultation Information and Discussion Meetings

To enable providers and other organisations with an interest in this review the opportunity to discuss these proposals in more detail a series of consultation and information meetings are planned.

Locality Office	Date & Time
Harborough The Symington Building Adam and Eve Street Market Harborough Leicestershire LE16 7AG	Tues 20 th Nov 2018 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Hinckley The Hinckley Hub Rugby Road Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 0FR	Thurs 22 nd Nov 2018 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Melton Parkside Station Approach Burton Street Melton Mowbray Leicestershire LE13 1GH	Tues 27 th Nov 2018 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
North West Leicestershire 3 High St Coalville Leicestershire LE67 3EA	Thurs 29 th Nov 2018 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Charnwood Pennine House 2 Lemyngton Street Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 1UH	Tues 4 th Dec 2018 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Blaby, Oadby & Wigston Bassett Street South Wigston Leicester Leicestershire LE18 4PE	Thurs 6 th Dec 2018 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
City Area Peepul Enterprise Orchardson Avenue Leicester LE4 6DP	Tues 11 th Dec 2018 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

When the consultation closes on 9th January 2019 we aim to publish the results in March 2019 ahead of the commencement of the second stage of the consultation.

You can view the latest information in a number of ways

Visit us online at resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/provider-fee-review

Our web pages will be kept up-to-date with the latest information and developments. You'll also be able to access the survey here.

Send an email to ASCengage@leics.gov.uk to register for the latest news and updates.

Follow us [@leicscountyhall](https://twitter.com/leicscountyhall) for general updates from the council, including the developments on the budget.

Alternatively, you can telephone **0116 305 0232** to ask for information in printed or alternative formats.

જો આપ આ માહિતી આપની ભાષામાં સમજવામાં થોડી મદદ
ઈચ્છતાં હો તો 0116 305 0232 નંબર પર ફોન કરશો અને
અમે આપને મદદ કરવા યત્ન કરીશું.

જેકર તુહાનું ઇસ જાણકારી નું સમજાવ દિવસ કુચ મદદ જાગીદી
રૈ તાં કિરપા કરકે 0116 305 0232 નંબર કે ફોન કરે અરે
અસીં તુહાડી મદદ લઈ કિસે દા પૂર્ણ કર દવાંગે।

এই তথ্য নিজের ভাষায় বুঝার জন্য আপনার যদি কোন
সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে 0116 305 0232 এই নম্বরে
ফোন করলে আমরা উপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির ব্যবস্থা করবো।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات سمجھنے میں کچھ مدد درکار ہے تو براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر کال کریں
0116 305 0232 اور ہم آپ کی مدد کے لئے کسی کا انتظام کر دیں گے۔

假如閣下需要幫助，用你的語言去明白這些資訊，
請致電 0116 305 0232，我們會安排有關人員為你
提供幫助。

Jeżeli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tej informacji
w Twoim języku, zadzwoń pod numer 0116 305 0232,
a my Ci pomożemy.