

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

| Item | Outcome |
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| Date of Decision | 17 March 2020 (1) and 1 April 2020 (2 & 3) |
| Decision Maker | Elaine Carolan, Interim Strategic Director for People |
| Brief Description of Decision | <p>To make additional payments to commissioned providers of adult social care as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued payments to providers of domiciliary care, supported living, extra care and day services, for the duration of the Covid-19 outbreak, even in cases where services cannot be delivered (for example where day services have closed due to Covid-19 or where homecare cannot be delivered due to individuals self-isolating or where staff are not able to work due to Covid-19 related issues). 2. Additional payments to providers for Covid-19 related cost pressures such as additional staffing costs, increased cost of Personal Protective Equipment etc. These payments took the form of an additional temporary percentage increase to providers, from the beginning of April. The temporary nature of the increase will be reviewed in line with the developing COVID-19 situation. <p>For domiciliary care, supported living, extra care and shared lives providers this increase is an additional 5% on their fee rates. For residential and nursing care providers, the increase is 5% on Band 2 and Band 4 rates respectively. This equates to a cash value of approximately £24 on the weekly fee rate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. It is likely that some providers will be incurring additional COVID-19 related costs over and above the costs already reimbursed, but this is also likely to vary considerably from provider to provider. A process has therefore been agreed to consider additional reimbursements for providers who apply to the council for further financial assistance. Providers who approach the council will be asked to submit details of the further additional costs which they are incurring. These applications will be reviewed by Commissioners and the Head of Finance on a case by case basis and payments made where costs are deemed reasonable and directly related to COVID-19. <p>The provider will be expected to be explicit in identifying what they are claiming for e.g. additional costs of PPE, staffing etc which is in excess of the additional amount they have received as an increased fee or which cannot be funded from any other grants or support that the provider is receiving. The amount reimbursed will also take into</p> |

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| | <p>account other factors such as the percentage of total business that the council has with the provider</p> <p>The claim for additional costs is conditional on this being on an 'open-book' basis and evidence (such as payroll, invoices, management accounts) may be requested and audited at a later date. Any payments made which are found subsequently to either not meet the criteria or not be substantiated will be set-off by Worcestershire County Council from future payments in accordance with the conditions of providers' contracts.</p> <p>Where these additional payments relate to clients who have been discharged from hospital or are made to prevent hospital admission, funding will be claimed via the CCG, otherwise the payments will be funded by the additional grant being allocated to local authorities.</p> |
| Reason(s) For Decision | <p>These measures have been taken in order to contribute towards the resilience of the health and social care system in Worcestershire and prevent provider failure.</p> <p>This is essential to ensure that there is sufficient good quality supply of services in Worcestershire in order that the Council's duties under the Care Act can continue to be met now and moving forward once the Covid-19 outbreak has ended.</p> |
| Alternative Options Considered and Rejected | <p>The option of making no financial contributions to providers was rejected as it would have led to widespread provider failure and would not have secured the resilience of the health and social care system in Worcestershire.</p> <p>In relation to decisions (2) and (3), the option of a higher across-the-board increase to providers was considered but was rejected as it was felt that this would not be proportionate to the needs of providers, which are likely to vary significantly across different parts of the market; therefore a case by case approach was adopted to ensure financial support is targeted most effectively.</p> |
| Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted | N/a |