

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Smith

Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health

DECISION NO:

OD/25/00012

For publication

Subject matter: Fee Uplifts for Adult Social Care Providers 2025/2026

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

[Decision - 24/00112 - Fee Uplifts for Adult Social Care Providers for 2025/2026](#)

Decision: To finalise the fee uplifts for Adult Social Care Providers for 2025/2026

Reason(s) for decision:

We uplift our fees in line with our contract terms and in order to fulfil our duty to ensure a reasonable supply of good quality care. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (PLGFS) was published on 18 December 2024. The settlement comprises of assumed council tax increases up to the referendum thresholds set by central government, and grants from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The council tax referendum thresholds for 2025/2026 are the same as for 2024/2025 and for Kent County Council (KCC) allow an increase of up to but not equal to or exceeding 5%, comprising of 2% specifically for adult social care and 3% for all services.

In the settlement the government increased the amount provided to local authorities through the Social Care Grant from £680m, as set out in the policy statement published in November 2024, to £880m, KCC's share of this additional £880m is £20.1m, which is equivalent to circa 3% of spend on commissioned care services. The 2025/2026 budget, approved by County Council on 13 February 2025, included passporting in full the additional funding from the Adult Social Care Council Tax levy and the Social Care Grant, together with a pro rata share of other general funding. The Social Care Grant is un-ringfenced and councils have complete discretion how the funding is spent, the grant is notionally for both adults and children's social care, however due to the particular challenges in adult social care the budget, approved by County Council on 13 February 2025, will use all of the increase available for 2025/2026 on adult social care spending.

For 2025/2026 it has been decided to award a 4% uplift across all sectors, framework and non-framework, with the exception of Older Persons Residential and Nursing Care (OPRN) where a cap will be applied as set out below for OPRN framework and non-framework providers:

	Threshold	Up to threshold	Above threshold
Residential long/short	£1,000 pw	4%	2.5% (CPI)
Nursing long/short	£1,200 pw	4%	2.5% (CPI)

Financial Implications:

Following approval of the 2025/2026 budget by County Council on 13 February 2025, £26.3m was allocated for Adult Social Care Commissioned Services and £2.1m for 18-25 Strengthening Independence Services

The table below details how the uplift budget allocation is made up:

£000's	Off-Framework		Framework		Total
	Vulnerable Adults	Older People	Vulnerable Adults	Older People	
Homecare	258.9	955.4	277.9	1,269.3	2,761.5
Older Persons Residential	0.0	1,645.5	0.0	3,930.4	5,575.9
Older Persons Nursing	0.0	1,244.0	0.0	1,605.3	2,849.3
Learning Disability/Physical Disability/Mental Health Residential	1,516.8	0.0	4,211.0	0.0	5,727.9
Supporting Independence Service/Supported Living	1,386.4	16.8	4,574.7	26.8	6,004.7
Supported Accommodation	0.0	0.0	170.9	2.6	173.5
Direct Payments	0.0	0.0	1,592.4	488.9	2,081.3
Carers/Respite	0.0	0.0	85.9	83.4	169.3
Meals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other	0.0	0.0	35.2	0.0	35.2
Daycare	0.0	0.0	507.6	28.5	536.1
Equipment	0.0	0.0	52.0	155.9	207.9
PFI	0.0	0.0	0.0	205.5	205.5
Total	3,162.1	3,861.7	11,507.6	7,796.7	26,328.1
18-25 Strengthening Independence Service					2,067.5

Legal implications:

There have been no legal implications identified as it is for local authorities to set their own prices in the light of current market activity and status. Local authorities have a range of statutory duties including through the Care Act 2014 but also has a duty to set a balanced budget within the resources made available through the national funding settlement.

Equality Implications:

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been completed. This is a live document and will continue to be updated as required, but the EQIA outlines how certain client groups will be impacted by the decision, where the full cost of the care is paid, or where the assessed contribution is greater than the full cost. It also sets out the mitigating factors in these instances.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health has been consulted on, and agreed with the approach for the 2025/2026 Adult Social Care Provider Fee uplift proposals.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

We considered applying the sum available differentially, but given the impact of the changes in employment costs on all providers, it was rejected as it would cause significant issues and disrepute with providers, taking capacity and focus away from the re-commissioning of our main contracts.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None



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signed

1 April 2025

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date