

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 27th February 2018
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Top-Up Fees
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To introduce the Board to the new policy for 'Additional Payments for Accommodation In Residential Care' (Top-Up Fees)

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board:

i) Note the contents of the report and associated appendix.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Care Act required local authorities to develop a framework for the implementation of Care Home top up fees.

A "top up" is the difference between what the local authority would usually expect to pay (depending on that particular person's care needs) and the extra cost of a specific care home. The additional cost is reflected in an additional service or added value. Top up fees can apply if the person chooses a care home that is more expensive than the Council agreed rate. This includes circumstances where the person has been paying for their own care under a private arrangement.

3.2 Affordability is considered at the point of assessment and review. An individual service agreement and information leaflet has been developed to ensure that people understand the importance of reporting a change in circumstances and where they can get independent financial advice. Care Home can only implement a review of top up fee once a year.

3.3 Where Halton is responsible for meeting a person's care and support needs the person will have the right to choose between different providers of that type of accommodation provided that:

- the accommodation is suitable in relation to the person's assessed needs
- the cost is no more than the amount specified in the adult's

- personal budget
- the accommodation is available
- the provider of the accommodation is willing to enter into a contract on the Council's rates, terms and conditions

This choice will not be limited to existing settings, providers or within that local authority's geographical boundary. There will be genuine choice across the appropriate provision.

3.4 When the more expensive accommodation was a matter of choice rather than necessity (less expensive accommodation was available, but not chosen), the council will fund the personal budget amount only. Paying the Top-Up becomes the responsibility of the person or their representative.

3.5 Where someone is placed in a more expensive setting solely because the council has been unable to make arrangements at the anticipated cost, the additional cost will be reflected in the person's personal budget

3.6 Supporting the individual's right to independence and choice the Social Worker will discuss with all parties the most effective method of payment and this will be based on an individual case basis and the most effective solution agreed. This will either be to make their own separate arrangement with the provider for payment of the Top-Up component or in some circumstances request the Council to pay on their behalf. This will normally be because the person has

- deferred payment status
- s117 status
- Special circumstances

3.7 There are currently 9 homes across the Borough who have implemented Top up Fees:

Beechcroft (HC1)	£50.00
Croftwood (Minster Care)	£30.00 for en suite rooms
Ferndale Court (HC1)	£50.00 Residential & Nursing Unit Residential Dementia Unit £80 - £100 dependent upon room
Ferndale Mews (HC1)	£50.00
Ryan Care	£50.00
Simonsfield (Hill Care)	£25.00 for certain rooms

St Patricks (CIC)	£60.00
St Lukes (CIC)	£60.00
Widnes Hall (Anchor)	£30.00 - £80.00

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 This policy will be reviewed in the summer of 2018 in the light of the expected government green paper on care and support for older people.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

All issues outlined in this report focuses directly on this priority.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None Identified

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None identified under the meaning of the Act.