

**FAO:** Sefton Care Home Providers

**By Email**

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Sefton Care Home Provider

**RE: Sefton Council Annual Consultation on Care Home Fees**

I am writing to you in order to commence formal Sefton Council consultation with you on our proposed fees for the 2025/26 financial year.

The Council are proposing an **8.03%** increase to fees which if approved, would result in the following rates being implemented (with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025) to the Council's contracted rates.

	Residential Care	Dementia Residential	Nursing	Dementia Nursing
2024/25 Fee	£701.81	£794.04	£721.67	£802.06
2025/26 Fee - 8.03% increase	£758.17	£857.80	£779.62	£866.47
Increase (£ per week)	£56.36	£63.76	£57.95	£64.41

The following table outlines how the increase has been calculated.

	Increase	% of Costs	% Increase Applied
<b>Staffing</b>	10.91%	67.76	7.39%
<b>Other Costs - CPI</b>	2%	32.24	0.64%
<b>Total</b>			<b>8.03%</b>

Enclosed with this letter a document that provides a full breakdown of the calculated rates by each cost element.

Please also note the following.

- Nursing figures do not include Funded Nursing Care.
- Where a care home provider charges a rate above the Sefton contracted rate resulting in a Top-Up payment being paid by the Council ('Sefton Pays Top-Up') this Top-Up payment will not be subject to the 8.03% increase.
- Any currently paid 'Above Standard Rate' payments will not be subject to the 8.03%

increase.

- Any existing placements which are costed based on an individual Resident assessment may be increased based on the same percentage uplift detailed in the table above, but going forward such rates will be subject of analysis via a costing tool being implemented in Sefton.
- Fees will be applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

As part of the consultation process the Council wishes to particularly receive and consider your feedback in relation to the following questions.

1. Whether the level of proposed fees set out will cover the cost of meeting assessed care needs within an efficient residential/nursing home for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026; and
2. If you do not agree with the above rates and if you consider that they will not cover the Care Act 2014, the cost of meeting assessed care needs within an efficient residential/nursing home, please outline why and provide any supporting information that you feel may be pertinent.

The following plan/timeline outlines the next steps of the Consultation and decision-making process.

Ref	Action	Target Date
1	Confirm proposals and process to all Providers (letter to all providers to confirm proposals and consultation process)	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
2	Period for Consultation Responses from Providers (Providers to supply comments, information and evidence on the matters consulted on)	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 – 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
3	Microsoft Teams consultation meeting with Providers	During above consultation period
4	Assessment and Analysis of Responses (assessment and analysis of comments, information and evidence supplied by Providers together with other information available to the Authority) / work on proposals and Cabinet report (including draft Cabinet report formulation and production of supporting documentation)	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
5	Letter to all Providers (signposting them to Cabinet report - published the week in advance of the Cabinet meeting)	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
6	Cabinet Decision	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025
7	2025/26 fees published (following expiry of “call-in” period for decision)	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

The Consultation period will run until **Midnight on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025** so please ensure that all responses are returned by this time in order for them to be taken account of in our decision-making process.

Please return your comments by e-mail to [Kate.Holmes@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Holmes@sefton.gov.uk)

Once the consultation period has closed, we will give full consideration to any responses received before submitting a report to Cabinet for decision.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for taking the time to consider this matter and to respond to this consultation.

Yours Faithfully



Deborah Butcher

**Executive Director Adult Social Care Health and Wellbeing**