

12 AUTHORISATION LIMIT FOR THE PURCHASE OF DOMICILIARY CARE AND SUPPORT (AN272-2005)

- (a) The Social Work Committee, at its meeting on 17th December, 2001, agreed a limit of £356 per week for the purchase from external providers of domiciliary care and support services for older people.

Since then, the number and range of care packages at home has increased significantly, and a variety of purchasing arrangements are in place. It is therefore appropriate to review this limit to ensure equality of treatment of service users, regardless of the setting in which they receive care and support.

It is recommended that this limit be increased to £424 per week, in line with the rate for placements in homes with nursing care for older people.

- (b) The need for increased or very urgent intensive care can arise quite unexpectedly, usually because of a change in the health of the service user or of their carer. On occasion, the home care service cannot accommodate these changes immediately and external provision is sought.

It is therefore recommended that, in these circumstances, the Director of Social Work be authorised to agree care packages up to the value of £550 per week, for up to four weeks.

- (c) Should a higher level and/or extended duration of care and support be required than authorised under (a) or (b), the case would be remitted to the Cases Sub-Committee for consideration.