

### 3 INCREASE OF PAYMENT RATES FOR ADULT PLACEMENTS (AN290-2007)

Payment Rates for Independent Care Homes for 2007/08 (Report 190-2007) were agreed at Social Work Committee on the 19th March, 2007. The report proposed significant increases in the rates payable to care homes for older people placements in line with national negotiations designed to meet the cost of increased care home running costs in return for a new contractual framework and meeting of certain quality criteria.

However, care home placements for adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health difficulties, which had previously lower payment rates anyway, were excluded from the review and only an inflationary uplift was provided.

The resultant significant gap in care home rates for the different client groups has compounded the problem faced by the Social Work Department in being able to place adults with disabilities as care homes prefer to accept older people placements at the higher rate. There is also pressure by care home providers to pay higher rates for existing adults placed as the needs of the majority of those adults with a disability are similar in terms of staffing requirements to those of older people.

Accordingly it is recommended that a single care home rate, equal to the older people rate, be adopted as follows with effect from 1st January, 2008:

All Client Groups	Residential Rate:	£435.50
(Previous rates -	Learning Disabilities	£326.00
	Physical Disabilities	£367.00
	Mental Health	£326.00)
All Client Groups	Nursing Rate:	£502.00
(Previous rates -	Learning Disabilities	£412.00
	Physical Disabilities	£451.00
	Mental Health	£412.00)

The cost of the above recommendations will be £99,500 in 2007/08 which will be met from the existing Social Work Department Revenue Budget and £398,000 in a full financial year for which additional budget will be required.