

4 AUTHORISATION LIMIT FOR THE PURCHASE OF SOCIAL CARE AND SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES (AN89-2013)

The Social Work Department provides care and support packages to individuals with various levels of need. In recent years, in order to meet the needs of an increasingly frail older population and following large scale resettlement of adults with disabilities from large congregate settings such as hospitals and care homes to more individualised and personalised services, the range and cost of these services has changed considerably. As a result, there is an increasing and developing social care providers market which offers a wide range of specialist services to meet increasingly complex needs such as enhanced dementia care services within care homes.

In order to ensure equality of treatment of service users regardless of the setting in which they receive care and support, the Director of Social Work is authorised to agree care packages up to a value which equates to the fee rate for placements in care homes with nursing care. Following approval by Social Work and Health Committee on the 24th June, 2013 to implement the National Care Home Contract rate for 2013/2014 it is recommended that this authorised level is increased in line with the nursing care home fee rate to £580 per week.

In addition, 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. Should this situation require the purchase of care from an external service provider, it is proposed that the Director of Social Work is authorised to agree care packages up to the value of the nursing home fee rate plus 30% for up to four weeks. In line with the changes in fees outlined above it is recommended that this rate is revised to £754 per week.

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

Expenditure arising from such decisions will be contained within the approved 2013/2014 Revenue Budget.

The Committee is asked to agree to the terms of this note.