

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 21st APRIL 2003

REPORT ON: 2003/04 PAYMENT RATES FOR INDEPENDENT SECTOR CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 298 - 2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report recommends final payment rates for 2003/04 for independent sector care homes for older people.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that fees for care homes for older people be fixed for 2003/04 at:-

Rate per Week Single Room		Rate per Week Shared Room	
Homes with Nursing Care	£406	Homes with Nursing Care	£386
Homes without Nursing Care	£346	Homes without Nursing Care	£326

These rates will apply from 7th April 2003.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Scottish Executive is making additional funds available to offset the majority of the increased cost of care home fees. Provision has been made in the 2003/04 Social Work Department revenue budget for the remaining local authority contribution.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

None

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Report no. 257-2003 agreed by the Social Work Committee on 17 March 2003, established interim rates for care home fees, pending resolution of the national review of fees undertaken by COSLA, the Scottish Executive and the care home sector. A further report was to be brought forward when the outcome of that review was known.

6.2 On 26 March 2003, and after a number of difficulties, final agreement was reached with representatives of the private care home providers. It is therefore now appropriate to establish final rates for 2003/04.

6.3 The main elements of the national agreement are: -

- for 2003/04, benchmark figures of £406 per week for nursing care and £346 per week for residential care will apply. For shared rooms these fees will be reduced by £20 per week.
- care home providers will comply with Regulations and associated guidance in relation to 'top ups' on these fee levels. (These regulations are intended to protect residents by limiting the resources that can be used to top up fees, and by requiring safeguards from third parties to reduce the risk that a resident will be evicted if the third party defaults on top up payments).
- a national working group will report by the end of September 2003 on an acceptable framework for assessing the costs of providing nursing and residential care for older people across different parts of Scotland.

The review was only concerned with homes for older people, aged 65 and over.

6.4 The current contract used for care home placements is being reviewed to take account of a number of changes over the past few years. The opportunity will be taken as part of this exercise to clarify precisely what level and standard of service is expected for the increased fees.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services and Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

Date: 11th April 2003