

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 13 SEPTEMBER 2001**

#### **UPRATING OF APPROVED NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOME RATES**

##### **Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval for the Council's rate for voluntary and private residential and nursing home care for older people and the revision in respite charges for older people.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At Special Social Work Committee on 1 March 2001 it was agreed to increase the approved rate in line with the DSS rate. This increased the residential care rate from £256 to £261 per resident per week (£5 increase) and the nursing care rate from £330 to £336 per resident per week (£6 increase).
- 2.2 Committee also agreed that this amount was on an interim basis and an increase in the rate could be considered at some point in the year.

### **3. PROPOSED APPROVED RATE FOR RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING CARE IN PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

- 3.1 Scottish Care, the umbrella organisation which represents some residential and nursing providers, has nationally been negotiating for an increase in the rate paid to all its members across Scotland. Throughout this process the Chair of Social Work for East Ayrshire Council and Social Work officers have had significant contact with Scottish Care and Local Providers. COSLA and the Scottish Executive have met with representatives from Scottish Care on a number of occasions, and following these meetings, the Scottish Executive have made an additional £17.5 million available to Local Authorities to fund an increase over the next 2 years. As part of the settlement a National Review Group has been established to include representatives from COSLA, Scottish Care and the Scottish Executive to look at the cost of full time care.
- 3.2 It was proposed that there be a national minimum rate set of £346 per week for nursing care and £268.77 per week for residential care. The Scottish Executive made £7.5 million available in 2001/2002, with £10 million available in 2002/2003 to fund this increase.
- 3.3 Local Authorities were required to agree, on a local basis, a settlement with providers in their area using the allocation of money they were given to fund an increase, and to use any remaining amount to either increase the minimum rate or use it to fund additional activity in residential and nursing care.

- 3.4 The allocation for East Ayrshire was £182,000 in 2001/2002 and £243,000 in 2002/2003(based proportionately on the Council's allocation of G.A.E.). Views were sought from providers on a £12 per week per resident rise for nursing care taking the rate to £348 per week, and a £10 per week per resident rise for residential care taking the rate to £271 per week. This increase was to be backdated to 1 July 2001. Scottish Care had requested an interim rise of £25 per week but they have since advised their members to accept whatever is offered on an interim basis until the outcome of the National Review Group has concluded.

YEAR	%GAE	INCREASE RESIDENTIAL	INCREASE NURSING	PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL	PEOPLE IN NURSING	TOTAL	BALANCE
2001/2002	£182,000	£10	£12	144	260	£177,840	£4,160 *
2002/2003	£243,000	£10	£12	144	260	£237,120	£5,880 *

- \* The respective balances are insufficient to provide additional places and therefore will be used to purchase additional respite days in residential or nursing home care.

#### **4. RESPITE CARE CHARGES – OLDER PEOPLE IN VOLUNTARY AND PRIVATE SECTOR**

- 4.1 The charge to individuals remains at £113.35 and £119.75 per week for residential and nursing care respectively, with £10 per week increase for residential care and a £12 per week increase for nursing care to be paid to providers by the Council for respite places.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The proposed increases can be fully funded from the Council's allocation of money from the Scottish Executive up until 2003.
- 5.2 The Council is required to spend the full allocation only on residential and nursing care and whilst being allocated a total of £425,000 in 2001/2002, must undertake to carry forward £243,000 into 2002/2003.
- 5.3 There are no increased charges to Service Users in this uprating.

#### **6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This increase is in line with the national policy of setting a national minimum rate for care services which was agreed between the Scottish Executive, Scottish Care and COSLA.
- 6.2 The contract which the Council has with providers allows the Council to review the approved rate more than annually.

## **7 NATIONAL ISSUES**

- 7.1 A national review group has been established by the Scottish Executive with COSLA and Scottish Care to review the long term arrangements for funding from 2002 for residential and nursing care.  
COSLA sees the current increase as an interim rate which will require to be amended upwards in the future. The review group requires to report to the Scottish Executive by November 2001 and members will be informed of the outcome and recommendations in a future report.
- 7.2 In addition, members should note that there is a Ministerial Group, Chaired by Malcolm Chisholm, currently considering the implications of fully implementing the Sutherland Report on the Future of Long Term Care.  
The findings and recommendations of the Care Development Group are expected to become public in September and will be brought to Elected Members attention immediately they are known.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Members of the Social Work Committee are requested to:
- (i) agree the approved rate increase of £10 in residential care and £12 in nursing care respectively and to backdate this to July 2001.
  - (ii) request that the Director of Finance carry forward the £243,000 allocated for residential and nursing home care into the 2002/2003 social work budget for the purpose of covering the increased care costs outlined;
  - (iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**15 August 2001**  
**Enc (0)**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

For further information on this report please contact Martin Clark, Service Unit Manager Older Peoples Services or Jackie Donnelly, Principal Officer Community Care, Civic Centre, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, KA1 1BY, telephone: 01563 576927.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: MARTIN CLARK

**AGENDA**