

ADULTS AND OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES

BRIEFING NOTE

Policy on the Application of Hourly Rates for the Purchase of Registered Agency Services under Self-directed Support (SDS) – Option 2

Introduction

When the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 ('the Act') came into effect in 2014, it gave people assessed as eligible for support the choice of four options in relation to how that support would be provided. SDS: Option 2 is the only new option – it allows people to select the support or service they wish to receive and to ask the council to then make the relevant arrangements on their behalf. The purpose of Option 2 is to give people greater choice and control than would ordinarily be available under Option 3 ('council arranged services').

Policy on the application of hourly rates for purchasing registered services under SDS – Option 2 (Adults and Older People's Services)

This Policy, passed by Council Executive on 20 September 2016, relates to only one aspect of arranging support for adults and older people under SDS: Option 2, namely the purchase of registered care agency services and the application of hourly rates for this.

The Act does not allow the council to exclude or endorse particular providers under SDS: Option 2, e.g. on the basis of pre-existing Framework Agreements / Contracts. As long as the preferred provider is operating legally, safely and effectively, people can select them under Option 2.

The Act requires the council to offer supported people a level of funding which could reasonably be expected to be enough for them to arrange sufficient support to meet their eligible needs under Option 2. However, this does not mean that Option 2 is a mechanism for people to arrange their support by any means irrespective of the cost.

This Policy aims to promote the equitable allocation of resources across the range of SDS options, to support a consistency of approach and to assist decision-making when working on support plans with people who have chosen SDS: Option 2.

Under SDS: Option 3, services are purchased from registered providers at a range of hourly rates under Framework Agreements – in promoting equity it is reasonable to expect that the range of hourly rates at which services are purchased under Option 2 should be broadly in line with these. This Policy reflects this position and provides guidance on the hourly rates for support under Option 2 that would ordinarily be expected to be applied – these are based on current Framework Agreement rates. (The rates linked to this Policy will be adjusted as required to remain in line with those agreed in relation to current Framework Agreements.)

West Lothian Policy on the Application of Hourly Rates – Guidance

The Policy includes a framework which provides guidance on the range of hourly rates for purchasing registered services and the type of services and support which it would be expected could be provided under each of these rates. There are 3 hourly rates which are defined as standard, enhanced and exceptional care and support.

The Policy also provides guidance on circumstances where the person wishes to either access a more costly provider by paying a top up from their own funds or to consider a reduced level of service to enable the payment of a higher hourly rate as well as situations where the needs of the person require the use of a provider whose hourly rate is greater than those outlined in the Policy and describes the action to be taken in relation to each of these.

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