

Reference: FOI.ICB-2425/052

Subject: CHC Framework

*I can confirm that the ICB **does hold some of the information requested**; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE					
As this relates to continuing healthcare (CHC) n we refer to ‘CQC Registered Older Persons Nursing Homes’, in which ICBs place residents in receipt of CHC. If you have any concerns or questions to our response please call me. Pre-amble Please accept this data request under the Freedom of Information Act as a Freedom of Information Request. If the requested data in the timeframe stated is not available, please use the last day of the most recent month for when data is available and provide the date used in the response.						
1. Please confirm if your ICB operates on a CHC framework with a single rate, and confirm the rate and any criteria relevant to this rate, and confirm the uplift applied to this framework rate for the period 2024/25. Note: If your ICB offered a range of rates, please outline the MEAN / MEDIAN / LOWEST / HIGHEST uplifts offered to Registered Older Persons Nursing Homes (<i>If this rate differs by place, please add additional rows to reflect each place</i>): <table><tr><td></td><td>Mean</td><td>Median</td><td>Lowest</td><td>Highest</td></tr></table>		Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest	1. The ICB does not operate a CHC framework, either with variable, or single rates, and therefore cannot answer this question. 2. The ICB negotiates rates with care providers, on an individual provider-by-provider basis, therefore each rate is unique to each provider. For 2024/25 the ICB offered care home providers an uplift that ranged between 0-4%. 3. A blank template letter is enclosed that was sent to care home providers.
	Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest		

CHC Rate				
CHC Uplift				

2. If your ICB places CHC residents outside of a CHC framework with a single rate, please confirm the rates and any criteria relevant to this rate, and confirm the uplift applied to this rate for the period 2024/25.

Note: If your ICB offered a range of rates, please outline the MEAN / MEDIAN / LOWEST / HIGHEST uplifts offered to Registered Older Persons Nursing Homes (*If this rate differs by place, please add additional rows to reflect each place*):

	Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest
CHC Rate				
CHC Uplift				

3. Please provide a copy of any letter or letters sent to care providers communicating CHC uplifts made by your ICB.

4. The ICB does not capture CHC financial information specifically using the category Registered Older Persons Nursing Homes. However the ICB can provide the following information:

As of 31 March 2024 there were **325** number of CHC funded individuals in care homes, this figure includes standard CHC and Fast Track end of life CHC.

5. Under the Care Act responsibility for care market development and sustainability rests with Local Authorities. The ICB works closely with the three BNSSG Local Authorities in formulating an approach to annual uplifts. The Local Authority have well established communication channels with the care sector in BNSSG, and the ICB work to align its annual uplift each year with the respective Local Authority.

6. See answer to question 5.

7. Head of Business – CNO (Chief Nursing Office) & CMO (Chief Medical Office), 0117 900 2626, bnssg.chcteam@nhs.net

4. As of 31 March 2024, how many individuals were your ICB funding for CHC in Registered Older Persons Nursing Homes? 5. Regarding the NHSE Payment Scheme Principle that the ICB's approach must: <i>'promote transparency and good data quality to improve accountability and encourage the sharing of best practice'</i> Please share the calculations, or methodology used by the ICB to outline how this principle is being met. 6. Regarding the NHSE Payment Scheme Principle that the ICB's approach must: <i>'engage constructively with each other when trying to agree payment approaches'</i> Please outline how providers were engaged in the decision that resulted in an annual review or uplift. 7. Please provide the appropriate named contact details (Including: title, email address, phone number and address) for the following topics: A. Inflationary Uplifts B. Fee Reviews (For instances of a resident's change in need)	
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C. Commissioning D. Payment and Invoice Queries (outside of SBS) E. Development of processes for ICB's approach to future uplifts	
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The information provided in this response is accurate as of 20 May 2024 and has been approved for release by Rosi Shepherd, Chief Nursing Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.

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Sent via email

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Email: bnssg.chcpayments@nhs.net

April 2024

Dear Provider

Uplift to Bristol and South Gloucestershire Funded Packages of Care/Placements for the 2024/25 Financial Year

I am writing to update you on several areas of the ICB's work, including the ICB's approach to uplifts for care providers for 2024/25.

The ICB faces a challenging financial picture in the coming 12 months, with increasingly complex and competing demands placing significant pressure on available budgets.

In considering how to make the best use of the NHS funds allocated to us to meet the health needs of our local population, it has been necessary to take a more targeted approach to uplifts this year, whilst recognising the ongoing challenges faced within the care sector. This will also enable us to align provider rates to the complexity of care being provided to our service users and reduce the inequity between prices of care paid to providers.

In 22/23 we uplifted rates by 4-7%, and in 23/24 this was increased to 8%. For 24/25 we have made the difficult decision to restrict price uplifts where provider costs benchmark high within the local market. Uplifts will range from 0-4% and be applied to all currently funded packages and placements, and for any new packages/placements that are agreed in this financial year, based on current agreed rates.

I can advise that the uplift offered to you is **[between 0 and 4% - NB. see paragraph above that states a more targeted approach]** from 1 April 2024. This uplift has been backdated to 1 April 2024 and your invoices can be adjusted accordingly. In the event that you have invoiced for all, or part of April already, please include the outstanding April uplifted value in the May invoice that you submit.

Bristol Adult Social Care Framework

Providers operating in Bristol will be aware of the Bristol City Council Adult Social Care Single Framework, which went live on 1 April 2024, and will have noted that the ICB is a named buyer on



this Framework. In time this will help us simplify the way in which we buy care in Bristol and support the move towards a more mature integrated health and care system.

There are no immediate changes to the way that the ICB works with you, but over the coming months we will be firming up process to buy from the Framework and will gradually shift to this as our main method of purchasing. The ICB's Funded Care Brokerage Team will still be the main point of contact for all ICB funded care issues.

Additional information

Please note the following:

- The existing CHC reference numbers provided to you within current service users' Individual Placement Agreements will remain the same.
- Any patient identifiable information on invoices will result in them needing to be amended and reissued, which will cause a delay in the invoices being processed.
- If invoices are received in excess of the agreed uplift rate they will not be processed. If this occurs, we will be asking for invoices to be reissued potentially causing a delay in payment.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with you throughout 2024/25.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email by emailing bnssg.chcpayments@nhs.net by Friday 10 May 2024.

Yours faithfully,

Senior Lead for Business and Commissioning
Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB