



**Partneriaeth**  
Ranbarthol  
Gorllewin  
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West  
Glamorgan  
Regional  
**Partnership**

West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board  
c/o West Glamorgan Transformation Programme Office  
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Date: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Mark Isherwood MS

Dear Mark

### **Care Home Commissioning Inquiry**

Following the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee's request for information, please find below the response from the West Glamorgan Region.

#### **Making access to care homes for older people less complex and easier to navigate**

The regional *Discharge to Recover and Assess* process Pathway 4, introduced through COVID, involves a proportionate assessment whilst the individual is in hospital, and link nurses directly speak to the care home to facilitate move on in a clear way and timely way. This is followed by a social work assessment within two weeks of discharge, to ensure the placement remains suitable and meets the needs of the individual, before a long-term decision is made.

Information on rights and choices when deciding on a care home are made available to the public by each partner organisation.

#### **Addressing the root causes of the division among partners that can arise from public sector funding approaches for different aspects of care**

The partners working with Older People within the West Glamorgan region have always worked well together. This has been particularly evident over the past two years, when, in responding to COVID, partners have come together to solve the number of issues that have arisen.

Partners have always taken a pragmatic view on eligibility of funding for placements. The development of a joint funding agreement over COVID to facilitate discharge into care homes has now been implemented as business as usual when a clear funding route is not visible; in these cases 50/50 is agreed until there is an opportunity to carry out the MDT in the care home. This ensures that there are no delays to discharge, and the service user is at the heart of the decision making process.



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Regional working has also been undertaken in agreeing uplifts for care homes, with a mid-year uplift awarded in October 2021 which was implemented after taking into consideration the considerable pressure care homes were under due to the impact of the pandemic on their operational and financial stability.

### **Improving performance information relating to health and social care commissioning to be able to demonstrate whether policy aims are being achieved, well-being goals delivered and to evidence the impact on service-user outcomes**

Over the last two years, much of the work has been COVID related, and keeping people safe. Prior to COVID, the region had already implemented a Regional Quality Framework focusing on service user well-being goals. This is a priority area for review post COVID to revise and improve. There is also a regional Escalating Concerns Policy and HOSG process, and the Externally Commissioned Care Group – set up to respond to COVID, will continue to operate facilitating business as usual in supporting care homes to deliver on well-being goals for their residents.

### **Ensuring that pooled-fund arrangements for care home commissioning are delivering the intended benefits**

The current arrangements are sufficient in meeting the region's requirements. However, we will continue to explore opportunities to build upon these arrangements, in particular with the development of new service models.

Due to capacity issues, it has not been possible consider evidence against the other issues noted in the letter in the time required due to the continuing significant pressures in the sector. However, a response will be drawn together and submitted to the Committee within the next 12 weeks. In the meantime, the costings as requested are as follows:

#### **Swansea Local Authority**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Rate for 21/22</b>	<b>Oct 21 Uplift</b>	<b>Rate for 22/23</b>
OP Residential Care	£576	£654	£658
OP Nursing Care	£653	£717	£722
OP Dementia Nursing Care	£678	£748	£754

#### **Neath Port Talbot Local Authority**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Rate for 21/22</b>	<b>Oct 21 Uplift</b>	<b>Rate for 22/23</b>
OP Residential Care	£619.96	£688.20	£688.20
OP Nursing Care	£627.57	£696.60	£696.60
OP Dementia Nursing Care	£660.23	£732.90	£732.90

#### **Swansea Bay University Health Board**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Rate for 21/22</b>	<b>Oct 21 Uplift</b>	<b>Rate for 22/23</b>
SBUHB CHC base rate	£837.32	£901.32	£912.77*



The 2022/23 CHC rate\* is a **draft estimate**, based on the national FNC rate increasing by 3.5% (from £184.32 to an estimated £190.77) plus the new Swansea LA OP residential nursing rate of £722.

Please do let me know if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely



**Emma Woollett**  
**RPB Chair & Swansea Bay University Health Board Chair**  
**West Glamorgan RPB**

cc: Sian Harrop-Griffiths; Director of Strategy, Swansea Bay University Health Board  
Dave Howes; Director of Social Services, Swansea Council  
Andrew Jarrett; Director of Social Services, Health and Housing, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

