

Announcement for Older Person Care Homes only

The CPA are pleased to announce that an Older Person Care Home Cost of Care Tool (CHIP Tool) has been launched on Wednesday, 25th May 2022. This Tool was commissioned by the Care and Health Improvement Programme (CHIP, jointly delivered through ADASS and LGA), and its development was supported by CPA and a wide range of providers and commissioners. The Tool has been developed by iESE, who have previously developed the Care Cubed Tool that many of you may be familiar with.

The Department of Health and Social Care have asked the CPA to support provider engagement in this crucial Fair Cost of Care exercise. The CHIP Tool developed in conjunction with providers is available to all councils and older persons care homes and mirror the information requirements set out by DHSC. CPA encourages all homes to participate in this one-time opportunity and to work in partnership with councils to evidence the cost of provision consistently and transparently, which has never been more important to create the evidence necessary to secure the desperately needed funding for Older Persons Adult Social Care from Government ahead of the wider reform agenda being implemented.

We understand some providers are either nervous or uncomfortable participating in these exercises; however, providers must share the cost of care data with their councils if they wish to see changes in funding allocations to councils and provider fees, in support of the social care reform agenda being imposed upon our sector. If providers fail to engage in this process, funding is less likely to be provided.

Support is outlined below and will continue to be updated to offer as much information as possible to promote participation, which is vital for councils and Provider Associations ability to lobby for the funding they deserve.

Information:

The CPA is now guiding providers to helpful information and support materials and how to register and use the CHIP Care Home Tool. A presentation overview can be found [here](#) with all the key initial information, along with a detailed guidance document in the registration section below.

Our understanding is that the majority of councils will use the CHIP Tool as part of their cost of care process. We are aware that some councils may use third parties to support their process and data collection, and even where this is the case, we are still encouraging them to use the CHIP Tool as the vehicle to receive information from providers. We are also aware that some councils may use other Tools, and whilst CPA encourages all providers to engage in these exercises as fully as they can, any organisation being asked to use different tools should determine for themselves if, and how they are able to do this in the time permitted. All councils should confirm to their providers their planned approach to the exercise,

especially which Tool they will use and the role of any third party, which the LGA/ADASS are encouraging them to do.

All data input in the CHIP Tool is retained securely and is only available to the provider and council or their nominated third party, who may be supporting their data collection, validation, verification, and provider engagement locally. Where other tools are used, we encourage you to understand how your data will be securely managed.

Registration:

To register for the CHIP Tool for Care Homes, you will need to first identify a Primary User within your organisation, and this person is responsible for registering your organisation, which may be a single care home or a group of care homes. If you are part of a group of care homes, then this will likely be a person at the head office.

The Primary user can set up multiple users for your organisation but take overall responsibility for the response.

To register on the CHIP Tool, [click here](#). There is a helpful video [here](#) and walk thorough PDF [here](#) to support registration. If you have any technical support requirements, please email carecubed@iese.org.uk.

Note that providers need to register as an organisation using their **CQC provider ID**, NOT as an individual care home location ID. Your CQC provider ID can be found [here](#) (in column AL).

If you are not ready to register to use the Tool yet but would like to remain up to date on the process, you can register your interest [here](#), and you will be sent an awareness pack and a link to a pre-recorded awareness video to help you decide how you can participate.

If you would like to receive Guidance and FAQs relating to the Fair Cost of Care process **or have any questions or concerns relating to the Fair Cost of Care process**, or require support on how to engage or participate, please email FCC@CareProviderAlliance.org.uk.

Providers are encouraged to register on the Tool, set up their primary user and to familiarise themselves with the data required. We have provided a [guidance](#) document and a list of [data items](#) to help providers establish the information they will need to prepare ahead of populating the Tool. By Friday 27th May, once councils have registered on the Tool, providers can choose to either populate each care homes data into the Tool, or to do so via an export excel template they can re-upload into the Tool. This is particularly helpful when you work with multiple councils or have multiple homes.

Further awareness sessions and guidance will be made available to providers who set up a primary user or who register interest in the Tool on the above links.

Local process and timeline:

Councils have been encouraged to work with local providers to design the process that supports this work. This will include agreeing timescales for submission of information, which will differ across the country. We recommend that all providers engage in any partnership work.

Providers are encouraged to start preparing the data that they will need to provide. We suggest providers DO NOT begin to populate the CHIP Tool until they are clear that their council will be using this Tool. Once providers are clear on this, they can begin populating this Tool, and this data will be held in the system, ready for the council to draw down when they register in the future. We also encourage providers to maintain dialogue with their councils, for instance, if they are unclear on the process or if they are planning to submit information but are struggling to meet the required timescales. We also encourage providers who have decided not to participate in this work to be open about this with councils.

Some councils may re-use information from recent costs of care exercises if this is approved by the DHSC, and they should communicate this to their providers, so all parties are clear that no further work is required.

PRIORITY Trailblazer Authorities:

Blackpool, Cheshire East, Newham, North Yorkshire, and Wolverhampton

The above five councils are testing the Fair Cost of Care reform ahead of all other providers. Most have already asked providers for cost of care data. If you have not yet participated in their local exercises and would prefer to use the CHIP Tool, you are free to do so. Still, we would ask that you prioritise providing information for the Trailblazer Authorities by 12th June given their accelerated timeline for responding to the DHSC.

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