

**From:** Care England Policy <info@careengland.org.uk>  
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**To:** info  
**Subject:** 2021-22 LA Commissioning



### **2021 LA Commissioning: An Interesting Period to Come**

Over the last few weeks, local authority (LA) fee offers have slowly started to trickle through. However, many providers have only received offers from between 10-30% of LAs in which they operate, much lower than in previous years, which means that there is still a high degree of uncertainty regarding publicly funded individuals. Last week, Care England reacted publicly to this issue ([Care England](#)). However, of those who have received fee offers, many have received worryingly low fee increases, for example:

- Hartlepool Borough Council – 1.4%
- Bristol Council Council – 2.13%
- Norfolk County Council – 2.87%
- Derbyshire County Council – 2.44%

These fee offers represent a particularly worrying trend when considered within the context of Covid-19. A context that has substantially increased the financial and operational costs associated with providing care. Insufficient fee increases, like the above, are often made on top of historically low fee rates, further compounding the issues involved and the care market's instability.

More broadly, we have received reports that LAs are basing their LA fee offers on pre-Covid occupancy rates. This is unacceptable when one considers the adverse effect Covid-19 has had upon occupancy rates in the adult social care sector. It is incumbent upon LAs to take account of such changes within their local markets. Especially given that occupancy rates are fundamentally intertwined with provider base costs.

In turn, over the coming weeks and months, Care England will continue to shine a light on those LAs which we believe have not taken sufficient account of provider costs. We have

already contacted some LAs regarding the inadequate fee proposals they made as part of their consultation processes at the start of this year.

Alongside this, we have been writing to all DASSs regarding the need for fee increases that support rather than undermine provider sustainability. Similarly, in a slightly different vein, we continue to liaise with the Government regarding the need for the system as a whole to be supported through sufficient long-term funding.

Intelligence given to us by Care England members is crucial in allowing us to hold LAs to account. Thus, if you feel any LAs are not consulting sufficiently or not making reasonable offers, please contact [Rwilliams@careengland.org.uk](mailto:Rwilliams@careengland.org.uk) with such examples. We will do our best to follow up on such examples and add them to our MINT Intelligence System, which is and will continue to be upgraded and updated over the coming period.

Likewise, if you have any further ideas for what Care England should be doing to influence 2021-22 rates, please let us know.

*Rhodri Williams*

*Senior Policy Advisor*



## **COVID-19 vaccination programme**

Documents relating to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination programme.

### **Contents**

- Guidance

- Training resources
- Consent forms and letters
- Leaflets and posters
- Programme documents

Please [click here](#) for more information.

## **COVID-19 vaccine emails**

Care England has been directed to the following email addresses to log Vaccine queries and we encourage members to also utilise them: [covidvaccineASC@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:covidvaccineASC@dhsc.gov.uk) and/or [COVID-19\\_VaccineTeam@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:COVID-19_VaccineTeam@dhsc.gov.uk)



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