

Reference: FOI.ICB-2526/215

Subject: Continuing Healthcare Fees

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE															
<p>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 2025/26.</p> <p>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>):</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Mean</td><td>Median</td><td>Lowest</td><td>Highest</td></tr><tr><td>CHC Rate</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>CHC Uplift</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest	CHC Rate					CHC Uplift					<p>BNSSG ICB does not operate a CHC framework with a single rate.</p>
	Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest												
CHC Rate																
CHC Uplift																
<p>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 2025/26.</p>	<p>BNSSG ICB agrees rates with care home providers on an individual basis.</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Mean</td><td>Median</td><td>Lowest</td><td>Highest</td></tr></table>		Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest										
	Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest												

<p>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>):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Mean</th> <th>Median</th> <th>Lowest</th> <th>Highest</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>CHC Rate</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>CHC Uplift</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest	CHC Rate					CHC Uplift					<table border="1"> <tr> <td>CHC care home placement weekly cost.</td> <td>£1,307</td> <td>£1,269</td> <td>£969</td> <td>£1,699</td> </tr> </table>					CHC care home placement weekly cost.	£1,307	£1,269	£969	£1,699
	Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest																									
CHC Rate																													
CHC Uplift																													
CHC care home placement weekly cost.	£1,307	£1,269	£969	£1,699																									
					<p>The ICB offered a variable uplift in 2025/26 with a maximum uplift of 3.5%. This was offered to the majority of care home providers.</p>																								
<p>3. Please provide a copy of any letter template sent to care providers communicating CHC uplifts made by your ICB (please attach as a separate document).</p>					<p>Please find enclosed the draft sample letter.</p>																								
<p>4. As of 31 March 2025, how many individuals were your ICB funding for CHC in Registered Older Persons Nursing Homes?</p>					<p>As of 31 March 2025, BNSSG ICB were funding 192 patients in Older Persons Nursing Homes. (This excludes Fast Track Patients).</p>																								
<p>5. Regarding the NHSE Payment Scheme Principle that the ICB's approach must:</p> <p><i>'promote transparency and good data quality to improve accountability and encourage the sharing of best practice'</i></p> <p>Please share the calculations, or methodology used by the ICB to outline how this principle is being met.</p>					<p>The ICB's budget and uplift allocations are determined nationally.</p> <p>Across our services, the ICB received a general uplift of 4.15%, which is offset by an 2% efficiency target, resulting in a new increase of 2.15%.</p> <p>There is no additional funding available, and any higher uplifts for specific services would require reductions in other areas.</p>																								

	<p>A maximum uplift of 3.5% was applied across our CHC and D2A care home and domiciliary care providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHC Providers: 3.5% uplift was offered to the majority of care home providers, with lower increases for a minority of providers that have benchmarked outside specific pricing ranges. • D2A Providers: A 2.15% uplift has been applied in Bristol and South Gloucestershire, as D2A costs in these areas are slightly above CHC rates. • North Somerset D2A Beds: These beds are contracted by the Council on the ICB's behalf, and have received a 3.5% uplift, reflecting that D2A bed costs in North Somerset are now comparable with CHC rates. <p>The ICB liaised with the three BNSSG Local Authorities (LA) in setting these uplifts, recognising the statutory role that Local Authorities play in care market management and sustainability. The care home ICB uplifts are comparable with Bristol and South Gloucestershire LAs. In North Somerset, where the ICB follows a joint commissioning approach, we have historically aligned with North Somerset Council's (NSC) uplift. While NSC has typically applied higher uplifts, than BCC (Bristol City Council) and SGC (South Gloucestershire Council), due to lower regional and national average prices. This year's 3.5% uplift aligns with Bristol and South Gloucestershire, as CHC and D2A care home costs are now comparable across BNSSG.</p>
<p>6. Regarding the NHSE Payment Scheme Principle that the ICB's approach must:</p> <p><i>'engage constructively with each other when trying to agree payment approaches'</i></p>	<p>Please note above response that provides clarity for this question.</p>

Please outline how providers were engaged in the decision that resulted in an annual review or uplift.	
7. Please provide a copy of your 2025 to 2026 fee uplift letter that was sent to care providers.	A draft letter has been provided as requested in question 3.
8. Please confirm the date when the ICB agreed or made the decision to proceed with the fee uplift for care providers for the 2025/26 financial year.	The ICB's approach to care provider annual uplifts for 2025/26 was finalised in March 2025.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 22 October 2025 and has been approved for release by Rosi Shepherd, Chief Nursing Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.

Sent via email

NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South
Gloucestershire ICB
Floor 2, North Wing
100 Temple Street
Bristol
BS1 6AG

xxxxxx 2025

Email: bnssg.fcbandq@nhs.net

Dear Provider

Uplift to Bristol and South Gloucestershire Funded Packages of Care/Placements for the 2025/26 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 2025/26.

Firstly I am pleased to confirm that the ICB is able to uplift your care rates by xx% for 2025/26 financial year. This uplift has been applied from 1 April 2025 and your invoices can be adjusted accordingly.

Please note that the ICB will not be offering an uplift on any enhanced care (such as 1:1 or 2:1) this financial year.

I appreciate that this may not be at the level that your organisation was hoping to receive, but in making this decision we have liaised closely with our partner local authorities in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, who have a statutory role in maintaining the care sector. Our uplift approach aligns closely with each of the local authorities and aims to balance a recognition of the importance of the care sector, with the challenging financial picture that our organisations face.

In the event that you have invoiced for all, or part of April already, please provide a separate invoice containing only the backdated uplift amount per period already charged. I.e. if you have already submitted two invoices for April, please submit two separate invoices per service user with the backdated costs. Failure to do so may result in delay in payment.

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 2025/26.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email by emailing bnssg.fcbandq@nhs.net by Friday 13 June 2025.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Colwill', is positioned above the printed name.

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