



SBAR – Social Care Sustainability Payment Update Report

Date: Integration Joint Board meeting on 29/10/20

Completed by: Andrew Main (Planning & Performance Officer, ELHSCP)

Area: Planning & Performance, Adults, East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership

<p>Situation</p>	<p>Since the beginning of lockdown on 23rd March 2020 the Health and Social Care Partnership have been supporting local social care providers by ensuring that reasonable additional costs are met through the National Principles for Sustainability and Remobilisation Payments to Social Care Providers. COSLA, Scottish Government and key partners regularly review the principles and evolving COVID situation to ensure that they are fit for purpose and service providers are supported to deliver a sustainable service.</p>
<p>Background</p>	<p>The first and second tranche of funding to support social care has been provided to local NHS boards from the Scottish Government with local claims that are supported being paid via East Lothian Council finance arrangements. Claims are considered at weekly Sustainability Payment Panels that are chaired by Alison MacDonald (Joint Director HSCP/ Chief Officer East Lothian IJB) and attended by a variety of partnership officers. As at 1st October 2020 the panel has approved £750,477.20 in claims (£151,701.28 in additional costs and £598,775.92 in reduced occupancy).</p> <p>All East Lothian adult service providers were initially contacted on 24th June 2020 to notify them of the availability of sustainability funding with regular reminders being distributed thereafter. Each provider is offered individual support to complete the claim process as and when necessary. To date 30 providers have responded and 16 providers have received payments. Of the 14 who have not received a payment: 2 do not intend to make a claim; 7 are yet to submit a claim; 4 claims are under review; 1 claim not approved. As well as providing support to care home providers on the national care home contract the panel have also been supporting non-framework homes on a like for like basis in recognition of their role in local service provision.</p> <p>The current national principles (v4) cover 23rd March 2020 to 30th November 2020 and the sustainability payment panel is therefore likely to continue into early 2021. The following transition arrangements are currently in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Home Occupancy Payments are paid at 80% of the National Care Home Rate between 23rd March and the end of August but will begin to taper with 75% of voids caused by the continued impact of COVID paid in September, 50% in October and 25% in November. • The planned care approach for care and support and community-based services will remain in place until the end of October to allow a transition period. • Additional costs for personal protective equipment, infection prevention control and staffing related costs, in line with Scottish Government guidance, will continue to be met in line with current arrangements and are subject to ongoing review and engagement with the sector, and • Social Care Staff Support Fund payments will continue subject to extension of the regulations. <p>The sustainability panel has been subject to an internal audit by East Lothian Council with Stuart Allan (Senior Auditor) attending the meeting on 24th August 2020 and reviewing our process and paperwork. Initial feedback from the internal audit team has been very positive and a full report will be available in due course.</p> <p>The panel has implemented a variety of records management and data protection principles in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act including: retention periods, restricted access</p>



	to panel files, a protective marking system and a call for all provider claims and evidence to be submitted in anonymised format.
Assessment	The partnership will continue to work in collaboration with service providers to provide the necessary support as and when required and mitigate the associated risks. As we transition from the national principles it is recognised that there may be a requirement to step up support in the event of a local outbreak in a particular area or in the event of a second wave. The partnership is actively working with and monitoring individual service providers to ensure that they remain stable and sustainable with the planned care approach ceasing at the end of October 2020 and reduced occupancy rates for care homes reducing through September to November. We continue to work with service providers to consider and implement adaptations to business and support models in order to ensure sustainability of services.
Recommendation	To note the content of the report.
Further Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider sustainability principles – https://www.cosla.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/19534/Provider-Sustainability-Principles-v4.pdf • Supplier relief policy note – https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-supplier-relief/ • Social Care Staff Support Fund – https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-social-care-staff-support-fund-guidance/