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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board



Meeting Date	28 November 2019	Agenda Item	4.4
Report Title	Funding Nursing Care Uplifts		
Report Author	Richard Bowmer, Finance and Business Partner		
Report Sponsor	Gareth Howells, Director of Nursing & Patient Experience		
Presented by	Gareth Howells, Director of Nursing & Patient Experience		
Freedom of Information	Open		
Purpose of the Report	To seek board approval for extending the current methodology used to calculate the Funded Nursing Care (FNC) rate for a further two years and to confirm the FNC rate for 2019/20 and 2020/21.		
Key Issues	<p>FNC refers to the NHS funding of Registered Nursing (RN) care within care homes, where this has been assessed as necessary. In addition to funding RN time the rate also includes a component to fund any continence provisions that may be necessary.</p> <p>In March and December 2018, the background to this and the work commissioned by Health Boards from Laing and Buisson that was used as the basis for uplifting the FNC rate. Following this, legal challenges culminated in 2017 with a Supreme Court hearing.</p> <p>The Supreme Court found that, in addition to the services already funded, HBs should fund some further services provided by the RN. The Judgment also resulted in Local Authorities being responsible for funding some of the RN time, where the RN is providing a service that is incidental and unconnected to the nursing care requirement. Previous Board papers have set out the Supreme Court judgment in detail and the work underway across Health Boards and with Local Authority representative partners to revise the funding model and address outstanding matters to reflect the Supreme Court's Judgment.</p>		
Specific Action Required (please choose one only)	Information	Discussion	Assurance
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p>Recommendations</p>	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTE that the current Inflationary Uplift Mechanism (IUM) was approved by each HB Board in Wales in 2014 for a period of five years then review; • NOTE that professional and finance leads from each HB in Wales have considered options and recommend that the IUM be extended for a further two year period, to cover 2019/20 and 2020/21, for the reasons set out in section 4 of this paper, and that CEOs support this Recommendation; • APPROVE the proposal that the IUM be extended for a further two year period; • NOTE and APPROVE the FNC rate for 2019/20 and 2020/21. • NOTE that further work will be undertaken to consider a longer term model following on from a WG review of the FNC policy position and that Boards will be updated on this work as it develops.
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Funding Nursing Care Uplifts

1. INTRODUCTION

To seek board approval for extending the current methodology used to calculate the Funded Nursing Care (FNC) rate for a further two years and to confirm the FNC rate for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

2. BACKGROUND

Funded Nursing Care (FNC) refers to the NHS funding of Registered Nursing (RN) care within care homes, where this has been assessed as necessary. In addition to funding RN time the rate also includes a component to fund any continence provisions that may be necessary.

Board members will recall from previous papers, most recently in March and December 2018, the background to this and the work commissioned by HBs from Laing & Buisson that was used as the basis for uplifting the FNC rate. Following this, legal challenges culminated in 2017 with a Supreme Court hearing.

The Supreme Court found that, in addition to the services already funded, HBs should fund some further services provided by the RN. The Judgment also resulted in Local Authorities being responsible for funding some of the RN time, where the RN is providing a service that is incidental and unconnected to the nursing care requirement. Previous Board papers have set out the Supreme Court judgment in detail and the work underway across Health Boards and with Local Authority representative partners to revise the funding model and address outstanding matters to reflect the Supreme Court's Judgment.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2014, HB Boards approved the adoption of an Inflationary Uplift Mechanism (IUM) to be used when calculating the FNC rate. The IUM methodology linked the labour element of the FNC rate to mid-point Band 5 of the NHS Agenda for Change pay award, with the continence component of the rate uplifted in line with CPI. Uplifts have been made on an annual basis in line with this and, since 2014, have been adjusted to reflect the revised rates post Supreme Court Judgment.

Boards approved the IUM in 2014 to apply for a period of five years, then review. The five years completed with 2018/19 and so Boards now need to consider the approach to apply from 2019/20 onwards.

4. RECOMMENDATION

Health Board professional and finance leads for longer term care have developed and considered a number of options regarding the methodology to apply from 2019/20 onwards and are all in agreement that the recommended approach be that the IUM be extended for a further two year period – to cover 2019/20 and 2020/21. There are a number of reasons why this is viewed to be the most appropriate approach:

- The IUM as a process has operated successfully for the past 5 years;
- An extension of two years would cover the full 3 years of the current NHS Agenda for Change pay award;

- It allows for further time to consider alternative longer term approaches following an anticipated WG policy review and also work commissioned in England from Laing & Buisson;
- The opportunities/implications of pooled budgets as they further develop.

In addition to the expert advice from HB professional/finance leads the HB Deputy Directors of Finance and Directors of Finance have also considered this matter and agree that the extension of the current methodology for a further two years is the most appropriate option.

CEOs have also considered the advice from the professional and finance leads and support the proposal to extend the IUM for a further two years – to cover 2019/20 and 2020/21.

HB Boards across Wales are now asked to ratify the proposal.

5. THE 2019/20 RATE

Setting the 2019/20 rate using the IUM has been more complex than usual. The three year NHS pay award has included revisions to the actual pay spines, with some incremental points being realigned and different percentage uplifts applied to some points within the Bands. It has emerged, following discussions with provider representatives, that this has an impact on the way the uplift could be calculated.

Two possible options were identified¹ and, following detailed discussions across HBs (and with WG colleagues) there is a majority consensus that the uplift applied should appropriately reflect the changes to the pay scale.

The revised option derives an inflation rate to ensure the resulting uplift is in line with the Midpoint of Band 5, including the effect of both inflation and the pay scale restructure. Adopting this approach ensures that the uplift applied to the nursing pay element of the fee results in the derived salary being in line with the Mid Point of Band 5 over these years and is thus more robust and in line with the way the IUM has been used since 2014. This results in a 3.1% uplift for 2019/20 and a 3.7% uplift for 2020/21. This will have an in year unplanned financial impact of circa £818k across Wales.

This can be demonstrated as follows:

Pay Point	18/19	19/20	20/21
19	24,915	26,220	26,970
20	25,934	26,220	27,416
Average	25425	26220	27193
Actual % uplift	1.5%	3.1%	3.7%

The uplift translates into a weekly HB FNC rate as below. The 2018/19 rate is included for comparison.

¹ The other option would have resulted in a 1.1% uplift in year based on the NHS Wales Pay Journey. When applying this the derived salary in 19/20 and 20/21 it would have been lower than the actual average of pay points 19 and 20.

Year	% uplift of RN labour component	RN component £	% uplift of continence component	Continence component £	Total HB FNC rate* £
2018/19	1.5%	156.30	2.5%	11.57	167.87
2019/20	3.1%	161.15	2.1%	11.81	172.96
2020/21	3.7%	167.11	**	tbc post February 2020	tbc post February 2020

* Note: In addition the LA is responsible for an additional 0.385 hours of RN time. This is currently paid by the responsible LA utilising a WG Grant.

** Note: The CPI uplift for 2020/21 will be based on the February 2020 published index for the previous 12 months, ensuring the rate can be calculated and becomes payable directly from the 1st of April 2020.

6. Engagement

The lead HB CEO and the lead Executive Council Member of ADSS Cymru have met with sector representatives on a number of occasions over the past year to ensure appropriate engagement and also as a route to address and ongoing queries/issues. These meetings have been productive and helpful and sector representatives have indicated they are content with the extension of the IUM as the recommended approach along with a need to begin consideration of an appropriate longer term methodology.

7. Conclusion

HB Boards have received a number of updates on FNC linked to the legal proceedings that have taken place over recent years. These updates have provided Boards with detailed information on the work underway following on from the Supreme Court Judgment in 2017.

This paper focuses on the need to consider the extension of the current methodology to calculate the annual FNC rate – the Inflationary Uplift Mechanism – for a further two years to cover 2019/20 and 2020/21. Lead professional and finance officers in each HB have considered the options and recommend extending the IUM for a period of two more years. Boards are now asked to ratify this recommendation as the approved approach.

This paper also sets out the FNC rate for 2019/20 and the approach to setting the rate for 2020/21. The 2019/20 rate calculation reflects the revisions to the Agenda for Change Pay Scale that form part of the three year pay award. Two options exist for setting the rate and the majority consensus view of HB finance leads, professional leads and Directors of Finance is to recommend the option that reflects the impacts of the revisions to the pay scale as set out in the tables above. This paper now seeks Board approval for this recommendation.

Governance and Assurance		
Link to Enabling Objectives <i>(please choose)</i>	Supporting better health and wellbeing by actively promoting and empowering people to live well in resilient communities	
	Partnerships for Improving Health and Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Co-Production and Health Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Health and Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deliver better care through excellent health and care services achieving the outcomes that matter most to people	
	Best Value Outcomes and High Quality Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Partnerships for Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Outstanding Research, Innovation, Education and Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Care Standards		
<i>(please choose)</i>	Staying Healthy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Safe Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Effective Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Dignified Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Timely Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Individual Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Staff and Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quality, Safety and Patient Experience		
As set out in the report.		
Financial Implications		
As set out in the report.		
Legal Implications (including equality and diversity assessment)		
As set out in the report.		
Staffing Implications		
As set out in the report.		
Long Term Implications (including the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)		
As set out in the report		
Report History	Chief Executive Officer's group.	
Appendices	None.	