

Request:

In this years budget, it was announced that pay for adult social care workers was to be raised by 50p per hour to the foundation Real Living Wage by way of subsidising private care companies to do so.

- 1) Where is this funding coming from?

- 2) How extensive has the uptake been by private companies to uplift their staff to the foundation living wage?

- 3) What is it costing the taxpayer at present?

Response:

1) The Real Living Wage commitment is being funded through a combination of grants (including the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund) and the social care precept.

2) All the providers on the Council's Ethical Framework for home care and supported living are committed to pay their staff the Real Living Wage.

To date, over 70% of Wigan care homes have formally signed up but this is expected to rise.

Note that the real living wage has also been implemented for personal assistants employed under direct payment arrangements.

3) The additional cost in 2023/24 to the Council of supporting the Real Living Wage is currently £2.6m.

This is in addition to wider investment made by the Council to support the quality and sustainability of the local care market.