



**Wigan<sup>♥</sup>  
Council**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the financial management of social care services. Specifically, I would like to inquire about the following:

1. The formula used to calculate the increase that factored in the National Insurance Contributions (NICS).

The 25/26 National Insurance increased costs were built into the 25/26 fee rates by modelling the cost impact of applying the reduced threshold of £5,000 and the increased contribution rate of 15% to actual pay rates for individual staff roles, as supplied by care providers.

2. The percentage of council tax allocated towards social care. Did the council apply the maximum threshold allowed for this allocation? If not, could you please provide the reason for not doing so?

The Council increased Council Tax for 25/26 by the 4.99% maximum threshold i.e 2.99% plus an additional 2% rise for the Adult Social Care precept.

3. The current reserves held by the council.

Reserves remaining at the end of 2024/25 are forecast to be £76.6m – this figure has not yet been finalised

4. The inflation rates for the following areas of care, and the resulting hourly/weekly/daily rates:

The banded fee rates in the tables below support payment of the Real Living Wage pay rate of £12.60 per hour to carers.

- OP Residential
- OP Nursing
- OP Residential EMI
- OP Nursing EMI
- WAA Residential
- WAA Nursing
- WAA Nursing EMI
- SL Day Support
- SL Night Support
- Out of Area Dom Care
- Home Care
- Extra Care
- Day Services
- Direct Payments

#### **Residential and Nursing:**

The fee rates apply to both Older People and Working Age Adults. There are no separate rates specifically for EMI.

The nursing rates exclude funded nursing care fees which are set by the Department of Health and are paid in addition to the nursing rates in the table below. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, the rate for NHS standard funded nursing care is £254.06 per week.

Banding		24/25 Fee (p/w/)	25/26 Fee (p/w/)	% Change
Residential	High	£719	£765	6.4%
	Specialist	£796	£847	6.4%
Nursing	High	£744	£792	6.4%
	Specialist	£810	£862	6.4%

### Home Care:

Service	24/25 Rate (per hour)	25/26 Rate (per hour)	% Change
Home Care (Standard)	£21.24	£22.96	8.1%
Home Care (Virtual Visit)	£18.28	£19.76	8.1%

### Supported Living:

Service	24/25 Rate (per hour)	25/26 Rate (per hour)	% Change
Supported Living (Wake)	£20.10	£21.60	7.5%
Supported Living (Sleep)	£9.04	£9.38	3.8%

### Direct Payments:

Service	24/25 Rate (per hour)	25/26 Rate (per hour)	% Change
Direct Payments (Personal Assistant Rate)	£13.91	£14.53	4.5%

### Extra Care and Day Services:

Extra Care and Day Service fee rates vary across providers due to the different types and costs of the schemes and services provided. The rates are agreed individually with providers following an open-book and partnership approach, which factors in inflationary increases in staffing costs, (including national insurance changes) and also in operational costs and overheads.

### Out of Area and More Specialist Provision:

There is a separate process for determining fee rates paid outside of the banded fee rate categories e.g. for more specialist provision or out of area placements, which are determined through assessment and dialogue with individual providers through an open book process. Where applicable, out of area placements are aligned to the fees paid by the host Local Authority.