

## **Bolton Council Use of Adult Social Care Funding 2017/18**

### **Use of the Adult Social Care precept**

Bolton Council will be using the adult social care precept on council tax for 2017/18 for the sole purposes of Adult social care in the following area;

Budget Demand Volume Growth – Demand for statutory services supporting older adults continues to grow in Bolton, this is due to demographic changes in the population who use these types of services. Whilst population growth overall is steady and rising at under 1% per year this is not the case in the 75 and over age bracket where population growth is well over 4% per year and set to continue for the next 10 years.

The growth in the over 85's who use the most intensive and expensive services is growing at an even higher rate of 5.5%. Whilst progress has been made in improving life expectancy, the same is not true of healthy life expectancy which remains at 61 years of age for adults in Bolton. Until this changes, demand for services for older adults in Bolton will continue to rise.

During the financial year 2016/17, Bolton has been drawing down on reserves towards ASC to offset budget pressures due to demand as outlined above. Therefore, Bolton will be utilising the 2% precept which equates to £1.968m against expected volume growth.

The extra 1% precept which equates to £984k will be used to improve the way Bolton delivers Adult Social Care. It also recognises the continuation of services would have been identified as being reduced or ceased as part of the savings and efficiencies agenda.

1. Fee Increases within the care market have also included a quality payment to support and sustain providers in Bolton. This enables Bolton to remain comparable to neighbouring authorities. A confidential report on "Older People Home Care Model" was approved at Executive Member on the 13th March 2017. This was a follow on report from the "Fee Rates for Adult Social Care" which was approved on the 13th February 2017.
2. The Council took the decision to utilise the funding above the 2% for the protection of services that support the care market. Including sufficient increases for providers to enable them to pay the minimum and living wage requirements and to protect the provision of essential respite care. In particular the avoidance of reduction in service at New Lane, Mere Hall and Wilfred Geere which provide essential respite provision to service users and their carers living with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and dementia.

### **Use of iBCF announced in the Spring budget 2017**

Bolton Council is continuing to fund core services in a climate of increasing demand. It is now able to uplift fees to ensure our providers are able to meet the national living wage pressures within our care services. In this climate of increasing demand we are now able to maintain many Adult Social Care services which we would not have otherwise been able to.

On top of this, we are now able to invest in some new services which will help in managing transfers of care within our Locality and also improve the effectiveness of reablement and our integrated services that support our most vulnerable residents and their carers.

Yours

Sue Johnson  
Borough Treasurer & S151 Officer

John Daly  
Director of Adult Services