

Update for local authorities on Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund.

Further to our update in December, which outlined the next steps for Year 1 of the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care review, this note provides details on the submission and publication of Cost of Care Exercises and Reports, and final Market Sustainability Plans. This update package includes:

- A. Details of how local authorities can resubmit their Cost of Care exercises and Cost of Care reports, where they have worked with providers to improve their exercises;
- B. Submission and publication dates for final Market Sustainability Plans;
- C. Supplementary data on self-funder fee rates for 2022-23, which may provide a useful additional data point for local authorities to consider.

Resubmission of Cost of Care Exercises and Reports

The PA Consulting Ready for Reform online platform will re-open for any local authorities wishing to amend their Cost of Care Exercises and Reports on **18th January 2023**. The deadline for local authorities to make any Annex A data amendments and upload final Annex B reports will be close of play on **1st of February 2023**. This is also the deadline for local authorities to publish their Annex B Cost of Care Reports on their GOV.UK webpages and inform the Department of where their exercises have been published, by emailing a link to their published exercise to the Markets Reform mailbox (marketsreform@dhsc.gov.uk).

Only local authorities who wish to update or amend the data provided as part of Annex A need to provide an updated submission on the Ready for Reform portal. Any changes made to the Annex A data must be clearly set out and justified in an updated version of the Annex B report. This updated version of Annex B must then also be uploaded to the PA submission platform.

If a local authority does not wish to amend their Annex A data or Annex B report, then they will not need to make any changes in the platform, the Department will assume that the information provided in October is their final submission.

Any local authorities who have forgotten their log-in details or are experiencing difficulties in re-accessing the PA platform should contact readyforreform@paconsulting.com

Submission of final Market Sustainability Plans

We can now confirm that final Market Sustainability Plans are required to be *both* submitted to the Department using the Ready for Reform platform, *and* published on local authorities' GOV.UK webpages **by the close of 27th March 2023**. To submit their final Market Sustainability Plans, local authorities should log into the Ready for Reform platform and upload their final version. They will be able to do this at any point after the platform re-opens on the 18th of January 2023 and before the close of 27th of March 2023. As with Cost of Care reports, local authorities will be required to report where final Market Sustainability Plans have been published, including a link to the published Plan, by emailing the Markets Reform mailbox (marketsreform@dhsc.gov.uk).

We will shortly be sharing the template for final Plans, including changes to reflect the delay to charging reform, alongside a short best practice guide based on our intensive review of a number of draft Market Sustainability Plans.

Data regarding self-funder rates

We have obtained local authority level estimates of older people's care home self-funder fee rates in 2022-23 from Carterwood, the market-leading provider of fee data to the elderly care home sector.

We are sharing this data for local authorities to be made aware of, as they finalise Cost of Care Exercises, Reports and final Market Sustainability Plans. This may provide a helpful further data point for local authorities to consider.