Fair Deal Blog - 12th January 2018

Watching the weather broadcast this morning I was pleased to hear that there is a change on the way – it is going to be brighter and colder which means it will be less grey. I’m looking forward to seeing some blue sky!

Welcome to another blog – I have been pleased to receive feedback from many of you regarding the regular update from me and that you find it a useful way to keep up to date with what’s happening In the world of social care and Fair Deal.

This blog is going to concentrate on the changes in the sleepover payment. You will remember I wrote in October of 2017 to tell you that GCHSCP [Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership] proposed to uplift the current sleepover rate to match the National Living Wage of £7.50 per hour. I said that when we knew what was happening we would let you know.

We received a letter this week to confirm that this proposal was to be implemented from October 2017. We have to sign a contract committing the organisation to making the payment of £7.50 per hour for sleepover hours and return by 24th January. To confirm I have signed this contract and agree that Fair Deal will pay the NLW for sleepover hours.

We are going to increase the rate for sleepover hours to £7.50 in January and you will see the increase in your next payslip for the period 18th December to 14th January. We will be working on the backdated payment due to relevant staff and would plan to have the calculation completed by February and payment made only once we receive the funds from Glasgow City Council. The calculation will be based on sleepover hours worked during the period 2nd October to 17th December and taking account of top up payments already made to individuals.

The correspondence from GCHSCP also mentions that the partnership are “developing alternative strategies to providing overnight supports” and that “providers will be fully consulted in the development of these strategies and the resulting change programme will be presented to Integrated Joint Board in March 2018.”The Integrated Joint Board manages the GCHSCP. The GCHSCP also told us in their communication “we aim to co-produce models of care that will involve a move away from traditional sleepover arrangements in favour of imaginative use of waking night staff and technology enabled care” and finally “the aim of the change programme is to improve care, develop sustainable solutions and promote a more independent living experience for service users”

You will see from the sections quoted from the letter received from the GCHSCP that there are major changes planned to the current way in which we provide night-time support.

As I mentioned in my first blog of 2018 one of the key priorities for the organisation is night-time support. It reassuring to know that we are aware of the challenges in the world of Social Care; we are pro-active and the GCHSCP plans don’t come as a surprise.

We will be talking to you throughout the year about GCHSCP strategies and how we will address them.

I would ask if anyone or any team has ideas or suggestions about alternative night –time support options we would like to hear from you.

Ann Marie Docherty