

By Email

18/03/2026

## Supported Living Uplift 2026/27

Dear Provider,

Essex County Council are pleased to announce an uplift of 4.1% on the rates paid for supported living services within Essex from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The Council are aware of the pressures felt in the market and the impact of increases to National Living Wage and inflation. You will be aware too that we have worked in collaboration with the market on our Cost of Care models to ensure it is reflective of costs to providers in both complex and non-complex settings.

The hourly rates produced from our cost of care from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 are:

- Non-complex day and night awake packages (including shared hours) - **£23.40** per hour
- Complex day and night awake packages (including shared hours) - **£25.96** per hour
- Night sleep packages - **£12.68** per hour

This uplift will be applied to all packages that are currently paid below the respective rate outlined above for the relevant package type. Packages that are paid above the new rates will not receive an uplift.

The complex supported living rate of £25.96 is paid on packages for adults that have been assessed as meeting the criteria ECC set out for complex needs. Schemes and individuals who applied for and were confirmed as complex in previous years will not need to do so again.

These rates apply from the first four-week payment period of the current financial year, which begins on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The new rates have been applied to our records and show automatically for the first payment period in April 2026. You should be able to see the new effective rates within the invoicing portal for this period, but where you believe the rates to be incorrect then please contact us as soon as possible so we can support resolution.

## **Exclusions and Conditions**

### **Joint Funded Packages**

Where a placement commissioned in full or part by Essex County Council is part-funded by an Integrated Care Board (ICB), an automatic uplift has not been applied.

Where an uplift is requested or required on a joint-funded package the provider is required to contact Essex County Council to enable us to engage with the respective Integrated Care Board. The intent is to drive closer collaboration between Essex County Council and ICB partners in respect of the application of uplifts across services.

Contact for uplifts on joint-funded packages must be made within the 2026-27 financial year.

### **Out of County Placements**

It should be noted that the new rates will apply for any supported living placements for adults with disabilities that are placed within Essex, or that are part of our Supported Living Framework. This means that the automatic uplift will not apply to any placements outside the administrative area of Essex County Council that are not a part of our framework.

Uplifts to these placements will be managed on an application basis and any provider seeking an increase to their package will be required to contact Essex County Council directly; uplifts awarded will be up to the maximum offered by the host local authority. Applications for uplift on packages within this category must be made within this financial year, and any applications made after this point will not be eligible for an uplift.

When awarded, the new uplifted fee will be backdated a maximum of 3 months prior to the request being made by the provider or to the 29<sup>th</sup> March if requested prior to June 2026.

### **Additional Provider Support**

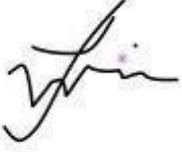
The Council is committed to supporting the market to deal with financial challenges and reduce costs for care providers. Care England and ECC are promoting a variety of initiatives designed to solve problems deal with challenges and reduce costs for care providers to supplement uplifts offered this year. These initiatives can be found via Care England's website and Essex County Council's Provider Hub at the following link: [Provider Support & Offers | Provider Hub | Essex \(essexproviderhub.org\)](https://www.essexproviderhub.org).

If there are any issues regarding these uplifts, please contact one of our AWD Supported Living team:

Justin Butler: [justin.butler@essex.gov.uk](mailto:justin.butler@essex.gov.uk)

Michael Rodway: [michael.rodway@essex.gov.uk](mailto:michael.rodway@essex.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zoe Harris', with a small purple dot above the 'i'.

**Zoe Harris**  
**Head of Procurement**  
Procurement Services

**W:** [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)