

25 October 2021

Social Care Payments and Arrears

1. In the area covered by the Trust, on the latest date for which figures are available, can you provide the total number of people you have assessed as having to pay for any aspect of their social care, including but not limited to:

(a) home care = 0

(b) day care = 0

(c) residential care = 2,414 people as of 31 August 2021

(d) other non-residential community care services? = 0

2. How many people are currently in arrears of payment of their social care charges (by this I mean having missed at least one payment)?

As of 31 August 2021, Belfast Trust had 1,489 accounts in arrears of payment in respect of residential accommodation. This figure excludes clients with unpaid invoices issued in the previous 30 days. The figures includes accounts in respect of clients who are deceased/discharged.

3. How many people currently have debt management procedures commenced against them for non-payment of social care charges (by this I mean any escalation in debt recovery, e.g. automated reminders, letter before action and referral to debt collection agency)?

As of 31 August 2021, Belfast Trust had 1,489 accounts which had debt management procedures commenced. Actions range from a statement of reminder to court proceedings.

4. How many people had court proceedings commenced against them relating to non payment of social care charges in 2019/20 and 2020/21?

Belfast Trust has issued court proceedings relating to non-payment of residential accommodation charges against < 10 accounts in 2019/20 and < 10 accounts in 2020/21.

Use of < 10 (less than ten): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under section 40(2) of the FOI Act - as this could make clients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

5. What is the total value of accumulated debt as at 31 March 2021 in respect of non payment/late payment of social care charges?

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Total value of accumulated debt as of 31 March 2021 in respect of non-payment/late payment of residential accommodation charges was £16,157,119.15. The figure excludes invoices issued in the previous 30 days.