Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
caring supporting improving together

FOI/37205

9 July 2026

Third-party and Trust-funded top-up fees for nursing and residential care homes

Please provide the information held by the Trust in relation to additional payments above the Trust's usual or standard funded rate for independent sector residential care home and nursing home placements.

For the purposes of this request, this includes:

1. **third-party contributions/top-up fees paid, agreed to be paid, invoiced to, or recorded as payable by a relevant third party associated with the resident; and**
2. **Trust-funded top-ups, Trust top-ups, enhanced payments, discretionary additional payments, or equivalent payments made by the Trust where the placement cost exceeds the Trust's usual or standard rate, including where no suitable alternative placement is available at the usual rate, or where a third party is unable or no longer able to pay the top-up.**

Please include all recorded cases where there is a difference between the Trust's usual/standard rate for the relevant care category and the actual weekly fee paid to or charged by the care home, regardless of whether that difference is paid by a third party, by the Trust, or by another route.

For the purposes of this request, I am seeking information for the Belfast area.

Please provide the following information for each financial year from 2022/23 to 2025/26 to date:

1. **The number of residential care and nursing home placements funded, arranged, commissioned or partly funded by the Trust where any additional amount above the Trust's usual or standard funded rate was recorded.**

   Please see attached excel document which contains this information

2. **Please break this down by payment type, where held:**
   - **third-party contribution/top-up paid or payable by a relative, friend or other relevant third party;**
   - **Trust-funded top-up / Trust top-up;**
   - **enhanced rate;**
   - **discretionary additional payment;**
   - **other recorded category used by the Trust.**

Please see attached excel document which contains this information

3. **For each placement category, please provide the weekly additional amount above the Trust's usual or standard rate, broken down where held by:**
    - **residential care;**
    - **nursing care;**
    - **dementia residential care;**
    - **dementia nursing care;**
    - **any other care category used by the Trust.**

    Please see attached excel document which contains this information

4. **Where held, please provide the name of each care home provider/home and the weekly additional amount associated with that provider/home, identifying whether the additional amount is recorded as a third-party top-up, Trust-funded top-up, enhanced rate, discretionary payment or other category.**

    Please see attached excel document which contains this information

5. **If the Trust considers provider or home names exempt from disclosure, please provide the same information in anonymised form, using provider reference numbers, and include:**
    - **the number of placements per provider reference;**
    - **the number of placements involving third-party top-ups;**
    - **the number of placements involving Trust-funded top-ups or enhanced/discretionary payments;**
    - **the lowest weekly additional amount;**
    - **the highest weekly additional amount;**
    - **the mean weekly additional amount;**
    - **the median weekly additional amount;**
    - **the total weekly and annual value of Trust-funded top-ups/enhanced/discretionary payments.**

    Please see attached excel document which contains this information

6. **Please provide the Trust's current policy, procedure, guidance, or decision-making guidance relating to:**
    - **third-party contributions/top-up fees;**
    - **Trust-funded top-ups;**
    - **enhanced rates;**
    - **discretionary additional payments;**
    - **situations where no suitable alternative placement is available at the Trust's usual rate;**
    - **situations where a third party cannot afford, refuses to pay, or stops paying a top-up.**

To reduce the risk of personal data being disclosed, I am not requesting resident names, relatives' names, addresses, dates of birth, financial

assessment records, care needs assessments, financial assessment records, or any other information that would identify individual service users or third-party payers.

See attached Financial Procedures for Care Home Admission Addendum to the Care Management Procedures Revised Standards and Guidance January 2020

Situations where a third party cannot afford, refuses to pay, or stops paying a top-up **-** these situations are considered with on a case-by-case basis. There would be an assessment of need, Best Interest considerations and consideration of Article 8 Human Rights. There would also be an approach to the care home to consider the rates.