



West Lothian Council

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

UPLIFT OF DIRECT PAYMENT RATES

REPORT BY ACTING HEAD OF SOCIAL POLICY

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Council Executive of the proposed increase in the hourly payment rates for Direct Payments to take effect from 1 April 2009.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council Executive approves the proposed hourly rates to be applied from 1 April 2009.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on customer needs Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal	None.
III Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The increases proposed will be met from provisions made in the service budget
IV Consultations	None.

D TERMS OF REPORT

A Direct Payment is a payment by the council to an individual who is assessed as requiring the provision of Community Care Services but who has opted to receive a cash payment rather than the provision of services.

The cash payment must be used by the individual to purchase the services assessed as required and cannot be used for another purpose.

A Direct Payment is calculated dependant on how the individual intends to purchase the services. Where it is intended that care will be purchased from a Registered Agency or Provider, the appropriate rate for the purchase of this service will be provided. Where the individual receiving the Direct Payment intends to employ a Personal Assistant, the rates identified on the attached schedule apply.

It is proposed that the Direct Payment hourly rate for the employment of Personal Assistants is raised by 2.5% on the 2008/2009 rate.

E. CONCLUSION

Direct Payments provide an option for individuals to exercise more choice and control over the services they require. The uplift of the hourly rate by 2.5% ensures that Direct Payments to employ a Personal Assistant remains a viable option for people requiring Community Care Services.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: Direct Payment Rates

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