

BULLETIN No. 8

Care Funding Calculator

(aka National toolkit)

The Care Funding Calculator has been developed by the Regional Centres of Excellence to support local authority commissioners to ensure improved outcomes for service users and the best use of resources.

The Care Funding Calculator aims to help providers and local authorities by achieving a better understanding of the market for accommodation-based care for adults with a learning disability.

The Care Funding Calculator will include a version for use by service users and their carers under individualised budgets.

11 April 2008

NEW NAME

The national care costing toolkit has a new name – the Care Funding Calculator. Picked from a list of 47 suggestions submitted as part of a competition to rename the tool, it was chosen by the piloting local authorities and the project board.

AWARDS

Gloucester County Council have won the LGC's innovation award for their fair pricing tool. Gloucester's tool, together with a tool developed by Hampshire and East Sussex councils for the South East, are the basis on which the Care Funding Calculator was developed.

PILOT

71 pilot sites participated, returns were received from 38 of these, giving a 53% return rate.

There was a significant error rate in 'needs assessment' which shows a need for focused training – this will be built into the forthcoming superuser training.

The total no. of returns were:

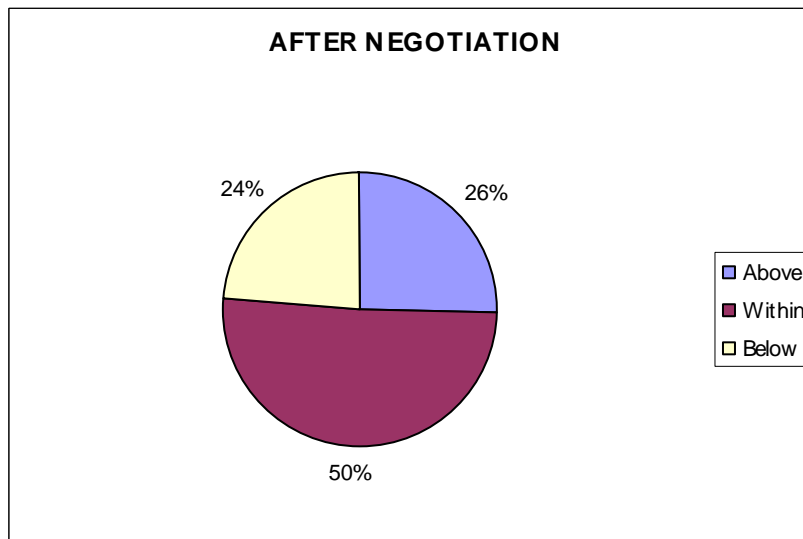
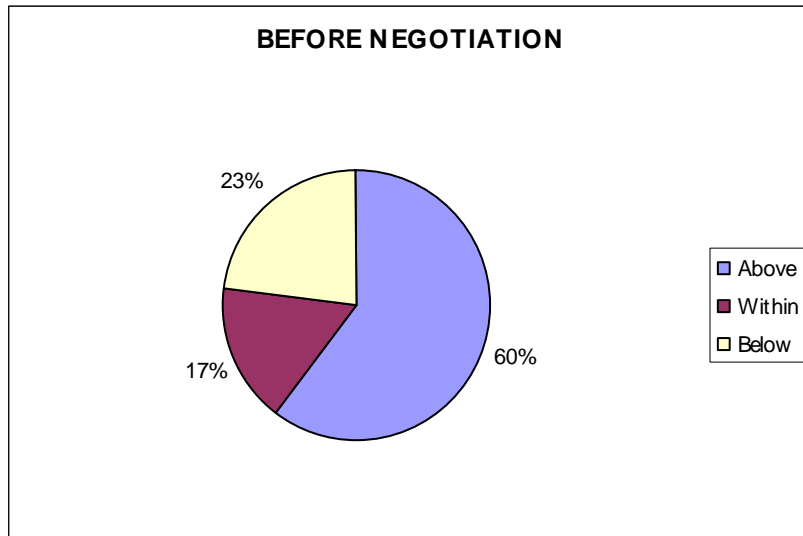
- 483 residential returns;
- 150 independent living returns

208 returns included the cost currently paid. Of these, 121 were re-negotiated using the Care Funding Calculator as part of the pilot phase using version 5 of the tool (we are now working on v11)

Position relative to Care Funding Calculator v5 from pilot

3 cases were recorded where the toolkit was used to justify an increase in the price paid to the provider.

'Above', 'Within' and 'Below' refers to the cost relative to the guide cost generated by the Care Funding Calculator.



GOVERNANCE

With the ending of the pilot stage, it has been agreed to disband National Working Group, whose function is now complete. Future operational feedback and development of the Care Funding Calculator will be informed by the regional superuser group to be created. The project board will continue in its current form until further notice.

COMMUNICATIONS

PROVIDERS

A consultation event was held with major national providers on 5/12/07. This was followed by a providers' meeting on 7/2/08 attended by Jonathan Tipler where further improvements to the tool were presented and discussed.

A further provider consultation event took place on 27th March 08 – a follow-up event to the one in December. Although there were still some concerns from providers present, it was agreed that the tool contains improved flexibilities and now addresses many of the concerns which had been raised at the previous meeting. Further refinements will be made based on some of the comments received at this meeting.

ECCA sent a letter to all LD commissioners nationally dd. 28.02.08 listing a number of issues and queries. Comments were based on an early version of the tool which had been used for testing purposes. All comments were answered in full.

ADASS

The Care Funding Calculator was presented and discussed at the ADASS Performance & Improvement Network meeting on 28/2. There was significant interest in it, with discussion around how it could inform Resource Allocation in personalisation, and the benefits of being able to track outcomes alongside resource.

ADASS London Region have agreed to adoption of the Care Funding Calculator by all London boroughs.

LAUNCH AND TRAINING

A press launch is planned for early May.

A number of regions are in the process of appointing regional superusers whose role will be to support the training of authorities, PCTs and providers in their regions. Training for these superusers will take place in late April and early May.

A further training event will take place for other regions once they have recruited.

Regional superusers will develop training, communication and support programmes for their regions. The Care Funding Calculator and associated guidance will be available to trainees on CD.

A protocol is being developed which aims to specify the spirit in which the tool should be used, underpinning the idea of a fair price being achieved through negotiation which recognises the pressures on both providers and purchasing bodies.

USER-FRIENDLY VERSION

Development of this will begin after the launch of the Care Funding Calculator.

WEB-ENABLING & DATABASE

2 companies have been shortlisted for development of the web-enabled Care Funding Calculator. Work will begin on this shortly. The web-enabling will allow for centralized version control, and incorporation of annual uplifts. We are exploring the feasibility of including a searchable database of registered providers.

For further information contact:

Amanda Lloyd
Project Manager
amanda.lloyd@sece.gov.uk
tel: 0789 409 6236

Jonathan Tipler
Consultant
jonathantipler@aol.com
tel: 07976 411670