



the voice of independent care providers in York and North Yorkshire

The Independent Care Group

May 2021

Sent by Email

Dear Colleague

Re: Membership fees 2021/22

I hope this message finds you well in these challenging times.

I am writing with some positive news amidst the doom and gloom of coping with the pandemic. This has been an incredible 12 months for the Independent Care Group (ICG) during which we have been working extremely hard to support our hard-pressed members and to highlight the plight of social care on the front line and in the media in the fight against Covid-19.

I am delighted to tell you that in recognition of our constructive influence, hard work and by way of a small 'thank you' to all social care providers, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) has agreed to a proposal from the ICG to fund, in full, all membership fees for 2021/22.

This support, we feel, highlights the council's recognition of all the hard work we all do collectively across the social care sector.

I know this membership contribution from the council will be very welcome to our members and sector. Overall, the ICG always faces a challenge over funding, and we are in continuing negotiations with the local CCGs over future funding of the group.

In the light of this and of the county council's generous gesture, we are taking this opportunity to set up something of a 'lobbying fund' to help with the future funding of the sector particularly when we have to keep the spotlight on the sector with the much-delayed reform of social care and are asking members for a voluntary donation towards this. This donation can be as much or as little as you can give and any contribution towards the future will be welcomed.

We want to ensure that the hard work we have all put in during the past year does not go to waste and that social care finally gets the recognition it deserves. To ensure that happens it is vital that organisation like the ICG and others continue and keep up the pressure.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who value and support our work as new or longstanding members of the ICG.

The ICG was founded almost 20 years ago by a group of like-minded providers who recognised that a collective group with representation was the best way to have a voice within the sector. We are a non-profit organisation with a Board of Directors who work on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the

independent and voluntary care sector. Mike Padgham chairs the ICG and is very active within the media and local/national government influencing policy and decision makers. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) recognises the ICG as an influencing body driving up standards for quality and safety and often quote membership of the ICG in their inspection reports.

Without your continued support we would not be here today to raise the day to day and strategic challenges our sectors face. Whilst it has been a challenge, the ICG has been able to keep your membership fees at the same level for the last few years as well as offering an early bird incentive in 2019/20.

We are proud to be your organisation and continue to represent you at local, regional, and national level in our endeavours for the long-term plan for our sector and to lobby for a fair deal.

In addition, members receive:

- Officer on hand for advice and help
- Access to a large local network of providers and registered managers
- Wide coverage in all Media outlets including National TV and Press
- Weekly members bulletin - keeping you informed and involved
- Member only area on our Website
- Member Discount at the ICG Conference, workshops & networking opportunities
- Local Meetings & Special Events
- Discounts for our members for legal advice from Philippa Doyle at Hempsons
- Discounts for our members for HR advice from Citation
- Recognised representative body involved in bringing the voice of social care to the attention of commissioners, regulators, local and central government
- Membership certificate (Useful at CQC inspections)

To fully take advantage of 2021/22 free membership please get in touch and leave the rest to us. If you can spare a one-off donation to the ICG future lobbying fund, please tell us and we will then invoice you accordingly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



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