

Petition to: Reward social care staff appropriately during the pandemic

The Petition

“We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to Reward their social care staff appropriately during the pandemic”.

With the initial Covid-19 outbreak, the council agreed to pay an enhanced rate to frontline care staff working at weekends, bank holidays and in the evenings. This continued until the end of September when it was stopped (aside from those doing overtime). Staff working in care homes across Surrey deserve medals for working throughout this pandemic and now into the second total lockdown. Many Surrey residents will have 'clapped for carers'. Now is the time to do more than clap - please sign this petition to show real recognition to these workers. We are calling on SCC to re-introduce the enhanced pay rates to care staff as a minimum and also to consider a reward payment (a Christmas Bonus?) for all staff working on the frontline.

Submitted by Paul Couchman of UNISON

Response:

I completely agree with you that Surrey care staff have responded magnificently to the challenges posed by the pandemic. This was especially true in the first wave, when we had to learn very quickly about how to manage the virus, and sadly we are now having to deal with another crisis with a new variant which appears to be more infectious than before. In March last year we temporarily reinstated unsocial hours payments that had been removed for the vast majority of staff through the council's Surrey Pay 2016 negotiations; this action was taken to ensure that all staff working unsocial hours were treated in a similar way during the initial peak months of the pandemic. Because of the uncertainty about how the pandemic was going to develop this was for an initial three month period, which was extended until 30 September. Temporary enhancements have now been resumed from 1 January 2021 in response to this latest phase of the pandemic and will remain in place for all staff working unsocial hours on Covid-19 related matters until 31 March, at which point the intention is to move to a more sustainable scheme (the detail of which is currently under negotiation with the council's recognised Trades Unions for pay bargaining purposes). We also agreed a thank you payment of £250.00 to staff who had delivered hands on care in the period, not just in Adult Social Care. This was paid before Christmas.

Mrs Sinead Mooney
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
26 January 2021

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