

A.1 Rates for the financial years from 2015/2016 to the present have been based on distinguishing between three categories of area: “urban” areas in South East Northumberland, where a substantial part of the County’s population lives; “rural” areas, including much of the remainder of the County’s population; and “extra rural” areas, which roughly correspond to the Northumberland National Park and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which are much more sparsely populated, and where it is significantly more expensive to provide home care. Hourly rates for each of these three categories of area are shown in the table below.

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>April 17/Oct 17</b>	<b>Oct 17/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
<b>Urban</b>	£ 12.50	£ 13.08	£ 13.56	£ 13.76	£ 14.36
<b>Rural</b>	£ 13.00	£ 13.64	£ 14.16	£ 14.48	£ 15.08
<b>Very Rural</b>	£ 14.50	£ 15.20	£ 15.76	£ 20.00	£ 20.84

Before the 2015/16 financial year, hourly rates were negotiated separately with individual providers. They varied from £11.00 in part of “urban” Northumberland to £13.80 in part of rural Northumberland.