Sustainable Supported Living Costing Framework
A Step-by-Step Guide to Unlocking Fair, Transparent, and Sustainable Pricing
Created by PPL for the More Than a Provider Collaborative

Why This Tool Matters
Supported living for people with learning disabilities and autistic people is often underfunded, undervalued, and misunderstood. This tool changes that.

It helps providers and commissioners:
- Understand the true cost of delivering high-quality support

- Benchmark fairly and transparently

- Negotiate with confidence

- Plan sustainably for the future

Built on real-world data from More Than a Provider partners - Brandon Trust, Certitude, Choice Support, Dimensions, MacIntyre, and United Response - it reflects the real-world complexity of supported living; not just the numbers, but the people behind them.

What the Tool Does
It calculates fair and sustainable hourly rates for:
- Daytime support (shared, 1:1, or both)

- Waking night support

- Sleep-in shifts

- Specialist/complex support

- Blended rates (day + night)

It also lets you:
- Tailor assumptions to your local context

- Price individual packages, schemes, or portfolios

- Compare current funding to fair cost

- Benchmark against national headline rates

More Than a Provider is a group of six non-profit social care organisations:

What Makes It Different?

- Built by and for the sector - not-for-profit providers, not consultants

- Evidence-based - grounded in benchmarked data

- Flexible and transparent - you control the assumptions

- Designed for action - supports bids, negotiations, and strategic planning

Who Should Use It?
- Providers: To understand true costs, support bids, and negotiate fair rates

- Commissioners: To benchmark pricing and shape sustainable markets

- Finance and Oerational Teams: To model scenarios and plan budgets

- Policy Leads: To inform strategic decisions and advocacy

Step-by-Step Walkthrough
Step 1: Open the Tool and Go to the "Quick Rate Calculator" Tab (1a)
This is your starting point.

What to do:
- Enter your base hourly pay (e.g. RLW, NLW, NHS Band 3, LLW)

- Enter sleep-in shift pay (e.g. £55 per shift)

- Set nighttime hours (default is 10)

- Answer Yes/No to:

    o Apprenticeship levy

    o Void risk contingency

    o Bank holiday and weekend enhancements

    o Agency staffing provision

What you get:
- Fair hourly rates for:

More Than a Provider is a group of six non-profit social care organisations:

- o Daytime support

- o Waking night support

- o Sleep-in shifts

- o Specialist/complex support

- o Blended rate (day + night)

- A full breakdown of staffing, overheads, and margin

Step 2: Review or Edit Assumptions (Tab 1b)
This tab shows the detailed assumptions behind the rates.
What to do:
- Review default assumptions

- Edit if needed to reflect your local contracts or policies:

  - o NI, pension, training, sickness, recruitment

  - o Senior support worker ratios

  - o Service manager costs

  - o Local and central overheads

  - o Surplus margin (default: 2.5%)

Tip: Only edit if you have reliable local data. Defaults are robust and evidence based.

To Cost an Individual Package (Tab 2):
Use this tab to calculate the fair cost for one person's support.

What to do:
- Enter weekly hours for:

  - o Shared daytime support

  - o 1:1 daytime support

  - o Specialist/complex support

More Than a Provider is a group of six non-profit social care organisations:

o Waking night support

o Sleep-in shifts

What you get:
- Weekly and annual fair cost

- Comparison with current and proposed rates

- Clear breakdown by support type

To Cost a Scheme or Service Location (Tab 3)
Use this tab to calculate the fair cost for a whole supported living scheme.

What to do:
- Enter:

    o Number of residents

    o Total hours of support (shared, 1:1, specialist)

    o Number of waking night and sleep-in staff

What you get:
- Weekly and annual fair cost of the scheme

- Average cost per resident

- Comparison with funded rates

To Cost Build a Portfolio View (Tab 4)
Use this tab to assess multiple schemes together.

What to do:
- Copy outputs from the Scheme tab

- Paste into the Portfolio tab

- Add notes and compare funded vs fair costs

More Than a Provider is a group of six non-profit social care organisations:

What you get:

- RAG rating system:

    o **Green:** Fair funding (0–2% variance)

    o **Amber**: 2–10% variance

    o **Red:** >10% variance

- Total and average funding gaps

To Benchmark Against National Rates (Tab 5)

This tab shows headline rates calculated from the MTAP methodology.

What to do:

- Compare your local rates to national benchmarks

- Use this to support funding conversations and strategic planning

Ready to Get Started?

Download the tool and methodology paper at:

www.morethanaprovider.org.uk or email info@morethanaprovider.org.uk

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