

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker	Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health
Date:	21 September 2021
Title:	Rapid Discharge Service and Discharge to Assess Live-in Care
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Executive Member to extend the existing contracts for the Rapid Discharge Service (RDS) and Discharge to Assess Live in Care (LIC) contracts from the period of 1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022. These services support individuals who are Hampshire residents to return home from hospital or avoid admission to hospital.
2. The County Council is seeking approval to extend the above contracts for RDS and LIC services to meet existing and predicted high service levels, catering for an anticipated increase in demand over the forthcoming winter period which may be detrimentally affected further by a third wave of Covid 19.

Recommendation(s)

3. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health gives approval to modify 6 contracts for the RDS Services to extend from 1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022 and to approve the associated spend of up to £1.6 million as set out in this report.
4. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health gives approval to modify 4 contracts for the LIC services to extend from 1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022 and to approve associated spend of up to £1.5 million as set out in this report.

Contextual information

5. As a direct response to Covid-19 and in line with new NHS Discharge guidance in early 2020, Hampshire County Council was required to work with all Hampshire hospital systems to support the discharge of individuals, within

a targeted 4-hour window once deemed fit for discharge. To support the 'home first' priority, Hampshire County Council commissioned three core services, two home based and one bed based. These services were originally set up over a 4-week period in April 2020.

6. The two home based services are in discussion in this paper. These are the Rapid Discharge Service (RDS)– a domiciliary service to enable discharge back to an individual's own home, which supports those who may have an eligible Care Act need with a domiciliary care package for 14 -28 days to enable a full assessment of need and the second is a Live in Carer (LIC) service which provides a more extensive level of support for an individual in their own home for up to 28 days for assessment of need. Funding for these services is being recharged against the NHS Hospital Discharge Fund agreed in advance via local NHS/CCG Finance Leads. These services are non-chargeable to the individual in receipt of the service up to 28 days.
7. These services are a significant contributor to timely hospital discharge performance, improving flow across the Hampshire systems and have been a significant contributor to maintaining all Hampshire systems through the pandemic. The value of these two extensions totals £2.3M and will be funded in their entirety through an equivalent combined contribution from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight and North East Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), via the NHS Discharge Fund.
8. System forecasts suggest that service demand will remain high over the next 6 months. These extensions will also allow time and give the ability for the Hampshire County Council Older Adults Commissioning team to be able to carry out a new full and compliant tender exercise for an ongoing, longer term 'home first' service to begin in the next financial year (subject to NHS discharge funding being confirmed for services beyond March 2022).
9. Following the initial set up during the opening weeks of Covid Wave One, in order to continue service delivery into Covid Wave 2, the County Council ran a call-off tender from the Help to Live at Home Framework in October 2020, dividing the County into 8 Lots for RDS (2 Lots have the same Provider) and 4 Lots for LIC (2 Lots have the same Provider).
10. The original contracts were put in place to cover 5 months from November 2020 to the end of March 2021 with an option to extend by 3 months. The expectation was that systems might have been in a position to confirm their agreement to a longer-term arrangement from the beginning of 2021/22 but it was recognised that there was uncertainty regarding whether the National Hospital Discharge Fund, (NHDF) would be regularised or at least confirmed to continue into the new financial year. In the event, NHDF funding was confirmed but only for the first half of the year and the actual confirmation was not received until late in March 2021. Given the situation we were unable to move forward with new contracts or tenders at that time and thus extended the contracts whilst the financial position was further debated nationally.

11. The contracts were modified in May 2021 extending to September 2021. The continued uncertainty around long term future funding streams has meant that we have not been able to put these services on a longer-term footing to this point. Agreement was reached with the local CCGs on 17 August 2021 that they will provide funding from 1 October 2021 until the 31 March 2022 to meet anticipated demand. We are now seeking approval for a modification to the original contract so that services can be secured for the remainder of this financial year.
12. An extension period was allowed in the initial tender sufficient to run a full and proper procurement exercise. As long-term funding has still not been agreed with central Government or local system partners, we are not yet able to tender for a more optimal, longer term (2-3 year) contract.
13. Hampshire residents have benefited hugely from these home-first services. These services have supported over 250 individuals a month to return home safely following a hospital stay or to remain in their own home and not have to be admitted to hospital. The average length of stay with RDS is 10 days, after which over 32% of clients have been able to remain at home with no care or with family support. Following a stay with LIC, over 6% of clients were able to remain at home with no care or family support required, and 64% of clients had an onward package of care in their own home and only 12% went onto a permanent long-term placement (residential or nursing care). Therefore, we are fully supporting and enabling residents of Hampshire to live well in their own homes and supporting the NHS mantra of Home First in action.
14. It should be noted that individuals using these services may need support with discharge from a hospital setting to their own home (step-down) or may require support to prevent a hospital admission (step-up), thereby supporting flow and effective management across the wider system.

Finance

15. The funding for the service has and will continue to be fully covered by the CCGs via the National Hospital Discharge Fund, (NHDF) up to the 30 September 2021. It is currently uncertain whether the NHDF will continue in the second half of the year. However, in the event that national funding is not available for the second half of the year the Local CCGs have formally agreed to underwrite the cost of the services as presented in this report.
16. The cost of these services are captured within the ledger and are reclaimed through an invoice issued to the CCGs on a quarterly basis. Regardless of whether the national funding continues into the second half of the year it has been agreed with the CCGs that the identical process will be undertaken from October 2021 through to March 2022.

Legal

17. Legal advice is set out in exempt appendix 1.

18. In exercising its functions an authority must have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

19. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

Equality Impact Assessment

20. Both the RDS and LIC service support all individuals over the age of 18 and also support individuals who may be Covid 19 positive. They offer a home first discharge option, accompanied by Therapy and Hampshire County Council Social Care support to ensure that each individual is maximised to their full potential and that their eligible needs are fully assessed in a holistic way, alongside the person and their family. This then ensures that long term chargeable needs are minimised for the individual, and we place the person back in the heart of their community, linked in and able to live well in their own home

Conclusions

21. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health gives approval to modify 6 contracts for the RDS Services to extend from 1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022 and to approve the associated spend of up to £1.6 million as set out in this report.
22. That the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health gives approval to modify 4 contracts for the LIC services to extend from 1 October 2021 – 31 March 2022 and to approve associated spend of up to £1.5 million as set out in this report.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Geographical impact (required): All Hampshire

Describe the proposed change. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required): An additional discharge option to support the ethos of home first and prevent the need for a bed-based provision for individuals awaiting Care Act assessment of eligibility following a stay in hospital and where other services currently available are not suitable

Who does this impact assessment cover? (required): Individual residents of Hampshire

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? (required): No prior but in process now

Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required): N/A

Age (required): Positive

Impact (required): This service will support adults to be discharged home with support whilst awaiting a Care Act assessment. This will support the individual's choice and ability to return home first with an enabling, least restrictive service rather than needing access to a bed-based provision, where those services are deemed not suitable

Disability (required): Positive

Impact (required): This service will support people with disabilities to be discharged home with support whilst awaiting a Care Act assessment. This will support the individual's choice and ability to return home first with an enabling, least restrictive service rather than needing to access a bed-based provision, where those services are deemed not suitable

Sexual orientation (required): Neutral

Race (required): Neutral

Religion or belief (required): Neutral

Gender reassignment (required): Neutral

Gender (required): Neutral

Marriage or civil partnership (required): Positive

Impact (required): This service will support those adults who are married or in a civil partnership and who may both require care in order to be discharged home from hospital with support or avoid admission to hospital whilst awaiting onward assessment of need/Care Act assessment. This will support the individual's choice enabling partners to stay together rather than the need for one or both to access bed based services and means they have the ability to return home sooner where other services are deemed not suitable

Pregnancy and maternity (required): Neutral

Poverty (required): Positive

Impact (required): This service is funded through CCG money therefore is free/non chargeable at the point of referral for up to 4 weeks.

Rurality (required): Positive

Impact (required): This service enables people to return home with a carer who will live in their property to care for them.

Any other brief information which you feel is pertinent to this assessment (optional): N/A

Please confirm that the accountable officer has agreed the contents of this form (required): Yes