

From: Richard Smith, Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health

To: Roger Gough, Leader of Kent County Council

Subject: **Decision 23/00115 - Pathway 1 – Discharge to Assess Service Contract**

Key: Yes

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: None

Future Pathway of report: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 18 January 2024

Electoral Division: All

Summary It is the ambition of KCC for the people in Kent to have home-based care and support services, in line with Home First principles. Discharge Pathway 1 Services enable the Council to deliver towards this ambition. The pathway relates to people being discharged from hospital with home-based support; all people needing such support should be offered reablement and rehabilitation and, where necessary, time for assessment and future care planning. This includes people whose package of care is being restarted after lapsing during their hospital stay. The Discharge to Assess Service Contract was commissioned by Kent County Council (KCC) and forms part of Discharge Pathway 1 Service, for people discharged from hospital who need support to recover at home.

The current contract is due to expire on 31 December 2023 and there are no contract extensions available.

Recommendation(s): The Leader of Kent County Council is asked to:

- a) **APPROVE** the Direct Award of the Discharge to Assess Service Contract to the incumbent provider (Hilton Nursing Partners) for up to nine months from 1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to take other relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 It is the ambition of KCC for the people in Kent to have home-based care and support services, in line with Home First principles. Discharge Pathway 1 Services enable the Council to deliver towards this ambition. The pathway relates to people being discharged from hospital with home-based support; all people needing such support should be offered reablement and rehabilitation

and, where necessary, time for assessment and future care planning. This includes people whose package of care is being restarted after lapsing during their hospital stay.

- 1.2 The Discharge to Assess Service Contract was commissioned by Kent County Council (KCC) and forms part of Discharge Pathway 1 Service, for people discharged from hospital who need support to recover at home.

2. Background

- 2.1 In September 2022 a one-year extension of the contract was endorsed by the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee. This was agreed on the basis that over the following 12 months KCC and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) would jointly design a new pathway which could be procured.
- 2.2 Although a new service model has been agreed between KCC and the ICB more time is needed to formalise the arrangement. Therefore, a decision is required to permit a Single Source Justification to Direct Award the Discharge to Assess Service Contract to the incumbent provider (Hilton Nursing Partners) for up to nine months from 1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024.
- 2.3 The proposal to Direct Award the Discharge to Assess Service to the current incumbent, was not planned but has become necessary as it has taken longer to develop the new model jointly with the ICB. Relevant development work was undertaken as part of implementing the last Key Decision taken in regard to the Discharge pathway service, however finalisation and the formalising of required agreements and arrangements has taken longer than anticipated or desired.
- 2.4 If the contract terminates on 31 December 2023, this would impact on people who require support at home in the early days post discharge from hospital. The activity from the Hilton service would transfer to higher cost services eg care home support and the gap in service provision would impact on delayed hospital discharges
- 2.5 There is also insufficient capacity to provide enablement support for everyone in hospital who can be safely discharged home with a short-term package of care. For this reason, the Discharge to Assess service is still required to ensure sufficient capacity over the winter period until the new service has a full complement of staff.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 This is a demand-led service and activity can fluctuate. The annual budget for the Discharge to Assess is £2,953,400 with additional budget of £732,600 for in supporting people waiting to move on to their long term home care support. The service's forecast spend this year is £3,928,400; an overspend of £242,400.

- 3.2 If the contract is extended by nine months, it is anticipated that costs of the extension will be circa £2,970,000 (based on current activity) and within the budget for the service.
- 3.3 Historically, the ICB has financed additional Discharge to Assess capacities (for example from NHSE winter funding); the ability to incorporate additional funding, including from the ICB, over and above the KCC budget allocation will still be available within the extension period.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 Legal advice in relation to the proposed award has been taken from Legal Services. The relevant legal considerations are appended in an exempt section to this report.

5. Equalities implications

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed (full details at appendix 1) and this indicates no substantive negative impact on protected characteristic groups.

6. Data Protection Implications

- 6.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessment has been completed.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 It is the ambition of KCC for the people in Kent to have home-based care and support services, in line with Home First principles. Discharge Pathway 1 Services enable the Council to deliver towards this ambition. The pathway relates to people being discharged from hospital with home-based support; all people needing such support should be offered reablement and rehabilitation and, where necessary, time for assessment and future care planning. This includes people whose package of care is being restarted after lapsing during their hospital stay.
- 7.2 The Discharge to Assess Service Contract was commissioned by Kent County Council (KCC) and forms part of Discharge Pathway 1 Service, for people discharged from hospital who need support to recover at home. Despite work undertaken to put in place a new model of service prior to contract end-date, this has not been possible. It is not viable, in terms of service user impact and the unacceptable service provision gap, to permit the service to cease on 1 January.
- 7.3 On that basis, it is necessary to put in place a short-term extension to allow time for the formalisation and mobilisation of the revised service model developed in partnership by KCC and the ICB.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Recommendations: The Leader of Kent County Council is asked to:

- a) **APPROVE** the Direct Award the Discharge to Assess Service Contract to the incumbent provider (Hilton Nursing Partners) for up to nine months from 1 January 2024 to 30 September 2024; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to take other relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

9. Background Documents

None

10. Report Author

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