

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

**To:** Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

**Subject:** **Discharge Services Contract Extensions and Future Commissioning**

**Key decision** **21/00050**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Previous Pathway of Paper:** Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2021

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member decision

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** KCC commissioned Discharge Service Contracts, Discharge to Assess and Assisted Discharge for those being discharged who need support to recover at home. These contracts were due to expire on 31 March 2020; however, these contracts were extended in response to emerging requirements resulting from the global Covid-19 pandemic. It is planned these services will be remodelled and recommissioned the new service in place by for April 2022. To ensure continuity of provision, and avoid disruption over the winter period, it is recommended that a provisional extension of these contract to March 2022 is agreed. Due to the interdependencies involved, it is further recommended that an additional six-month optional extension until September 2022 also be agreed.

The close work with health partners during the pandemic has highlighted the opportunity to improve hospital discharge pathways including the absorption of the Home with Support discharge service, commissioned by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust into the council's Care and Support in the Home contract, for the remainder of the Home with Support contract term, until March 2022.

**Recommendation(s):** The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to:

- a) **EXTEND** the Discharge Services contracts until 31 March 2022, with a further option to extend until 30 September 2022,
- b) **EXTEND** the east Kent Cottage Hospital discharge service until 31 March 2022; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contract or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The current KCC commissioned Discharge Service Contracts, Discharge to Assess and Assisted Discharge form part of Discharge Pathway 1, for those being discharged who need support to recover at home. The Council was in the process of undertaking a procurement exercise, with new contracts due to go live in April 2020.
- 1.2 Due to the unforeseeable circumstances the Council was unable to award contracts within the planned timescales. The existing contracts were therefore extended in accordance with PCR 2015 - Regulation 32(2)(c) and Procurement Policy Note 01/20.
- 1.3 Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) also commission a discharge service, Home with Support in east Kent. This service draws on similar providers that are already contracted to KCC's contract.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 There are a variety of discharge services serving Kent residents, with allocations dependent on the specific needs of the individual, and the geographical locations of the discharging hospital and the individual's home. The *Hospital Discharge Service: Policy and Operating Model*, published in August 2020, established the Discharge to Assess pathways model, which is based on four clear pathways for discharging people, dependent on the individual's ongoing needs.
- 2.2 As part of the Covid 19 response, government required the council and the NHS to pool budgets via a variation to their existing Section 75 Partnership Agreement in order that Covid funding in relation to hospital discharges and out of hospital work, could be facilitated. This was agreed in September 2020 (Decision No:20/00084).

## **3. The current position**

- 3.1 KCHFT's Home with Support service is delivered by three east Kent providers, who also provide services to KCC under the Care and Support in the Home contract, with delivery requirements being similar.
- 3.2 Simplifying this duplication by bringing KCHFT's Home with Support in line with the Care and Support in the Home contract, would bring about improvements for those people who use it and well as unifying the market that supports this work.
- 3.3 Dealing with the pandemic enabled us to work more closely with our health partners and highlighted a potential to significantly improve the hospital discharge pathways. RETHINK Partners were commissioned to undertake a review of the adult social care discharge pathways, co-sponsored with the NHS.
- 3.4 The learning from this review, along with the absorption of the Home with Support contract will provide the foundation of the specification for a new Pathway One Discharge Service to commence in April 2022. In order to carry

out this work, a provisional further extension of the current Discharge to Assess and Assisted Discharge Services until March 2022 is agreed.

- 3.5 The timescales will ensure that service delivery is not further disrupted by new contracting arrangements over winter, when generally additional capacity is required. However, due to the interdependencies involved, it is further recommended that an additional six-month optional extension until September 2022 also be agreed.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The cost to extend the substantive Discharge to Assess and Assisted Discharge contracts for an additional six months is £1,695k; costs for these contracts currently come from the Section 75 pooled budget.
- 4.2 The cost to extend the remaining element of these services is £914k.

#### **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 The provision of services to support people with health and/or social care needs following admission to hospital is detailed within the Care Act 2014. Paragraph 8.14 of the Statutory Care and Support Guidance states that local authorities may not charge for assessments, community equipment and minor adaptations, intermediate care or reablement for up to six weeks.

#### **6. Equalities Implications**

- 6.1 An EQIA has not been completed. The variation agreement was centred on enabling quick and safe discharge and more generally reducing pressure on acute services, and the recommended extensions continue to support that.
- 6.2 An assessment will be undertaken for the redesigned discharge provision.
- 6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment is in place for the commissioning of the Care and Support in the Home service.

#### **7. Data Protection Implications**

- 7.1 There are no anticipated data implications associated with these decisions, as there will be no change to current services, or the data collected or shared, and therefore this will be covered under existing contract clauses.

#### **8. Other corporate implications**

- 8.1 There may be some resource implications as a result of these recommendations, within Adult Social Care, Strategic Commissioning and Finance, in order to manage the additional capacity.

#### **9. Conclusions**

- 9.1 In order to simplify the pathways for those who need support after leaving hospital, the council's discharge service contracts, Discharge to Assess and Assisted Discharge should absorb the NHS Home with Support Contract. The costs in relation to this will not be born by the council.
- 9.2 Learning from the RETHINK review and the changes proposed to discharge services will inform the future shape of a new pathway one discharge service which will commence in April 2022.
- 9.3 To avoid any service disruption, particularly over the winter period, existing contract should be extended to March 2022, with a further optional extension til September 2022.

## 10. Recommendations

10.1 Recommendation: The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to:

- a) **EXTEND** the Discharge Services contracts until 31 March 2022, with a further option to extend until 30 September 2022,
- b) **EXTEND** the east Kent Cottage Hospital discharge service until 31 March 2022; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contract or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

## 11. Background Documents

Cabinet Office Procurement Policy Note 01/20

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/873521/PPN\\_01-20\\_-\\_Responding\\_to\\_COVID19.v5\\_1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/873521/PPN_01-20_-_Responding_to_COVID19.v5_1_.pdf)

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