WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION  
CABINET MEMBER HEALTH & WELLBEING

<table>
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<th>ITEM:</th>
<th>RAPID ACCESS TO ASSESSMENT AND CARE BEDS</th>
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<td>Date of Decision:</td>
<td>30 December 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exempt:</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Confidential</td>
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This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on two or more wards or electoral divisions; one ward (unless the number of those affected is very small or it is impractical to treat this as a key decision).

A notice was served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in connection with key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

| Urgency/Special Urgency:   | No                                     |
|                           | (As defined in Constitution)            |

Purpose: To obtain approval to award a framework in respect of rapid access to assessment and care beds to the providers identified in the report below following the conclusion of a successful procurement exercise which was conducted in line with section 4.6.13 of the council’s contract procedure rules. Approval is sought to award this framework for the duration of 3 years with an option to extend for a further year in line with the time limits for such a mechanism which are prescribed by the European Union’s procurement regulations.

Decision: THA T:

(a) That approval is given to award a place on a framework to the providers which are identified in the following report in order to provide a rapid access to assessment and care bed service to residents of the county of Herefordshire.

Reasons for the Decision:

1. Following the successful conclusion of the rapid access to care pilot scheme in March 2014; the council in conjunction with the clinical commissioning group, wishes to continue this scheme in order to alleviate undue pressure on hospital beds during the winter period by utilising the step down beds which form part of this service. This pilot study demonstrated that this scheme was successful in enabling 59% of service users to return home to continue their recuperation following hospital treatment thereby facilitating a timely discharge when there is no clinical reason for remaining in hospital. Therefore, this scheme enables the council to meet its strategic commissioning objectives of furthering personalisation via maximising the independence of vulnerable adults in
Herefordshire; enabling them to return to their usual abode wherever possible.

2. The proposed framework will comprise the following services:

- Firstly, a step down service in respect of patients who have recently received treatment in an acute or community hospital and have no clinical need to remain as an inpatient; but is unsafe for them to return home without a further assessment of their continuing care needs.

- Secondly, a step up service whereby a service user requires medical intervention but the requisite treatment can be administered in a community setting and therefore it is unnecessary for the affected individual to be admitted to hospital.

- Thirdly, an assessment to care service for instances where a service user requires a temporary safe environment to enable an assessment of their continuing care needs to determine the creation of a bespoke care plan in accordance with their assessed needs.

3. The overarching purpose behind this service is to provide access to assessment and care within 24 hours of a referral during a period of up to 14 days. In addition, this service will incorporate an element of assessment and onward care planning to enable service users to remain as independent as possible whilst they receive the requisite level of care to meet their assessed needs and prevent a prolonged hospital stay or cause a service user to become unnecessarily dependent on long term nursing or residential care. Therefore, the council will be able to further its personalisation agenda by adopting this scheme.

4. Furthermore, to facilitate a service user’s ability to regain their independence under this scheme; the Wye Valley NHS trust will provide occupational therapists and physiotherapists who will assist with the creation of individual care programmes in conjunction with the care workers from the affected care home. This will ensure that service users will receive continuity of care during the periods when the therapists are not visiting the care home and enable service users to regain their independence as quickly as possible in line with the council’s personalisation agenda.

5. The proposed scheme meets a number of strategic objectives. Firstly, it forms a key component of the local urgent care recovery plan which is designed to reduce
avoidable emergency admissions to hospital and facilitate discharge from acute and community hospitals and improve patient flow through the urgent care system. In addition it promotes an individual’s return to independence in line with the council’s overarching commissioning principle of supporting personalisation and adopting community based support in Herefordshire.

6. In addition, by incorporating the provision of step up beds; this scheme seeks to reduce avoidable admission to hospital and subsequent placement in long term care establishments such as nursing or residential homes or necessitating the utilisation of premium domiciliary care packages.

7. Furthermore, the provision of assessment to care beds within this scheme will enable a dedicated nursing team to create a bespoke package of continued care in relation to a service user’s needs in order to assist with their recovery and enable them to return home or transfer to a more appropriate placement if necessary.

8. Moreover, the extension of the current scheme will facilitate the future creation of a managed health and social care pathway in the community of Herefordshire via the provision of assessment to care beds which form part of this service. This pathway will subsequently assist with the creation of an inter-agency, multidisciplinary assessment of a service user’s ongoing health and social needs with a view to adopting targeted therapist input where necessary in order to maximise an individual’s function and independence; in line with the council’s personalisation agenda. In addition, the aforementioned pathway will enable clinicians, nursing staff and healthcare assistants to identify other services which are pertinent to a service user’s case and will assist their continued recovery.

Options Considered:

None identified due to the fact that the current scheme which was designed to alleviate the effect of winter pressures on NHS services in Herefordshire ended on 31st March 2014; and there is no analogous service for the forthcoming winter period. Therefore, if the recommendations of this report are not followed there will a gap in service provision for vulnerable adults and additional pressure on the Herefordshire NHS which poses an unacceptable risk for the council.

Conflict of Interest (See below):

Date the key decision is due to take effect: 6 January 2015
a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

And

in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority’s head of paid service.