

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To commission a provider to deliver a 12 month D2A Reablement Service in Herefordshire
Date of decision:	10 March 2026
Decision maker:	Hilary Hall - Corporate Director Community Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Chief Executive scheme of delegation: CW-01 and CW-08</p> <p>CW-01: Adult social care operation and policy provision of assessment and care management; approved mental health practitioners; deprivation of liberty functions; strategic and operational safeguarding adults policies and procedures; prevention and support services (including welfare rights, occupational therapy, financial assessments, direct payments, telecare, rapid response registered service).</p> <p>CW-08: Commissioning, quality assurance and contract management relating to all ages.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Community Wellbeing is authorised to take this decision under the council's Contract Procedure Rules.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>The following internal representatives and partner organisations were consulted, as part of this process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member Adults, Health and Wellbeing • Community Wellbeing Directorate Leadership Team • Service Director All Age Commissioning • Legal Team • Procurement Team • D2A Strategic Board (including NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board and Wye Valley NHS Trust)
Decision made:	To commission a provider to deliver a 12 month Discharge to Assess (D2A) Reablement Service in Herefordshire from 1 May 2026 until 30 April 2027, with an option to extend for an additional period of up to 12 months (potentially until 30 April 2028).
Reasons for decision:	<p>Discharge to Assess (D2A) is a nationally recognised model designed to ensure that individuals leave hospital at the earliest safe opportunity. It is based on the principle that assessments for ongoing care and support needs should not take place within an acute hospital bed, but rather be completed in the most appropriate setting, which is ideally a person's own home. This reduces unnecessary hospital stays, supports recovery in familiar environments and minimises the risk of de-conditioning associated with prolonged hospital admission.</p> <p>The D2A Reablement Service will provide therapeutic intervention for 2 to 4 weeks for individuals who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are medically fit to be discharged from hospital • Have a high likelihood of regaining pre-hospital abilities • Require short term support to re-learn or re-gain lost skills

	<p>The service is currently fully delivered by the council's existing Reablement / Enablement Service provider. However, the council needs to develop capacity with this provider and deliver service efficiencies, so a short term D2A Reablement Service provider is required to provide additional support. This will ensure the council can fully support its residents to remain safe and independent in their own homes for longer, after leaving hospital.</p> <p>The maximum budget for this service is £500,000, including any extensions. This is based on the provider delivering 6,485 hours of support per year, at a maximum of £33 per hour (subject to demand, which may increase or decrease during the contract term).</p>
Equality considerations:	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act. b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. <p>The D2A Reablement Service contract will have no negative impact on any group with a protected characteristic. The service will ensure all residents in Herefordshire are able to leave hospital at the earliest opportunity and return home, with short term support provided to enable them to re-learn or re-gain pre-hospital skills and abilities. Therefore, it positively helps to advance equality of opportunity between different groups.</p>
Highlight any associated risks / finance / legal / equality considerations:	<p>There are no associated risks with commissioning this service. The council's All Age Commissioning Team has worked in partnership with the council's Procurement and Legal Teams to produce the required documentation, therefore removing any potential risks.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Incorporate into the council's current home care framework: This is not recommended. It is not possible to amend the home care framework to include the D2A Reablement Service. It therefore needs to be a standalone service / contract.</p> <p>Do nothing: It is not viable to do nothing. The council needs to develop capacity with its existing Reablement / Enablement Service provider and deliver service efficiencies. The short term D2A Reablement Service contract will ensure the council can fully support its residents to remain safe and independent in their own homes for longer, after leaving hospital.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	<p>None.</p>