

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Adult Discharge to Assess (D2A) block bed provision 23-24
Date of decision:	13.12.2023
Decision maker:	Service Director Community Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The Service Director of Community Wellbeing is enabled to make decisions regarding adult social care operations, including the provision of assessment and care management under CW-01 of the Chief Executive's scheme of delegation.</p> <p>4.6.32 of the council's contract procedure rules sets-out that where the scheme of delegation provides the authority, service directors and directors within the relevant directorate (as defined by the requisite pay grade) have authority to award and sign a contract, authorise a contract variation/ extension or authorise an early contract termination of a contract value up to £500,000.</p> <p>4.6.42 further sets-out that tenders need not be invited in accordance with the provisions of the council's contract procedure rules if an urgent decision is required, for example for the protection of life or property or to maintain the functioning of a public service, if in the opinion of the relevant Director it is considered to be in the council's interests or necessary to meet the council's obligations under relevant legislation.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Not applicable
Decision made:	<p>To progress with the short term block purchasing arrangements for 17 D2A beds to support the council to meet its obligations and aiding prompt discharges. The purchasing arrangement is from 10th January 2024 to 31 March 2024</p> <p>This is not additional budget but is replacing the current spot placements arrangement.</p> <p>The maximum budget is set at £284k This funding is via the Urgent and Emergency budgets for 2023-24.</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>On the 14th September 2023 the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced £200 million in new funding to help support health and social care services through peak winter months. Of this, £40 million has been identified to bolster social care and improve discharges and will be distributed to local authorities.</p> <p>This is part of NHS England's Urgent and Emergency Care Recovery Plan which is underpinned by an extensive programme of work to deliver improvements across urgent and emergency care ahead of winter. This plan provides a firm basis for preparing for the 2023/24 winter period and the NHS performance measures are 76% of patients being admitted, transferred, or discharged within four hours by March 2024, with further improvement in 2024/25.</p> <p>As part of the Councils response to the above plan we are targeting funding at those areas experiencing the greatest discharge delays. The Discharge to Assess (D2A) discharges from hospitals are considered to be a key</p>

proposal and so the Council is looking to go out for additional block purchased beds.

A funding proposal of £284k has been made for these block beds.

Capacity modelling has identified that the numbers of people requiring support in nursing and residential beds on discharge from hospital exceeds the current block booked capacity. It is proposed that the council commission's additional block booked residential and nursing beds to support additional timely discharge and avoid high costing spot purchase fees.

The D2A arrangement works from the principle that, in the main, people should be supported to go home from hospital. D2A services are free at point of delivery, prompt, rapidly deployed and time limited normally to six weeks, In these circumstances patients will be discharged through the Discharge to Assess (D2A) pathway into a care home to receive additional support and further assessment before longer term plans are made.

The only other option the council has is to spot purchase from the accredited list as and when beds are required, however this approach will not guarantee there will be sufficient D2A provision as the Discharge to Assess pathway must be available 7 days per week and will support individuals for a maximum period of 6 weeks, plus it must provide targeted interventions to facilitate discharge from hospital.

The council is looking to go out to the market for 17 D2A block beds based on its 2022-23 purchasing arrangements.

The block purchase arrangement is required from 10th January until the 31st March 2023 (approximately 9 weeks depending on actual start date).

The council is looking to go out to the market for 17 D2A block beds based on the historic data of its 2022 and 2023 purchasing arrangements set out below:

Timescales	Bed type	D2 Beds commissioned	Average beds required per month
January to November 2023	Nursing beds	118	10.8
	Residential	84 beds	7.8

The number of beds being sought to block purchase is as follows:

- Nursing beds – 10 are required
- Residential – 7 are required

The Expression of Interest (EOI) is due to go out to the market on the 13th December 2023 and the contract will commence the 10th January 2024. The Council has previously given advance notification of this tender on 30th November 2023.

The EOI went out to the existing care home providers on the accredited list only.

Equality Considerations

The public sector equality duty requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation. This also forms part of the Unified Contract that is in place.

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/

The block contracts can pose a risk if not fully occupied but these risks are being mitigated by weekly monitoring and a clause which states the council will cease the block contracting arrangements should they not be utilised

equality considerations:	effectively.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>The Council will not achieve the timely discharge from acute settings for people that are medically fit for discharge but who might otherwise be delayed in hospital whilst an assessment is completed to determine their longer term needs.</p> <p>Failure to comply under section 91 of the Health and Care Act 2022 which came into force in July 2022, the Local Authorities and NHS bodies must plan and exercise health and social care functions in England to inform local service planning and delivery of discharge and recovery services.</p> <p>Reputational damage to the Council as it will not be fulfilling its proposals to block purchase D2A beds set out to system partners in October 2022 as part of the Discharge funding report.</p> <p>There is insufficient time to run a full tender process as the service is required in January 2024, However we are utilising an existing accredited list and running a competitive mini competition to secure the best price/quality for a number of block bed provision with one or more suppliers.</p> <p>Providers who are registered on the council's residential and nursing accredited list are ideally placed to meet the service quality requirements of this type of service and have demonstrated a level of quality based on their competitive tender submission and subsequent acceptance onto the framework after evaluation. Unfortunately the accredited list does not explicitly allow for Block Contracts in the specific area of discharge to access though many homes provide this service ad hoc.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None made.

Signed..... Date: 13 December 2023

Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.