



Report of Director of Integrated Commissioning

Report to Director of Adults and Health

Date: 27th April 2021

Subject: Extension of the Discharge to Assess Frameworks (DN501376 & DN511940)

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- Through a delegated decision published on the 2nd November 2020 referenced D52435, the Director of Adults and Health approved the award of a framework of independent sector care home providers to provide discharge to asses (D2A) beds in the care home to enable people to be discharged from hospital and receive an assessment in a more appropriate setting during the pandemic. The framework was let for a period of 6 months until the 30th April 2021, with the option to extend for up to a further 6 months in any combination subject to confirmation of a funding source (DN501376)
- To augment the number of providers on the original framework, a further tender exercise was undertaken, and through a decision published on the 4th December 2020 referenced D52543, the Director of Adults and Health approved a further award to independent sector care homes for a period of 4 months until the 31st March 2021, with the option to extend for up to a further 6 months in any combination subject to confirmation of a funding source (DN511940).
- The funding for the D2A service is delivered through the NHS COVID-19 budget via NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). This funding was available until the 31st March 2021 however, the Department of Health and Social Care

announced on the 18th March 2021, the continuation of funding for the hospital discharge service until the 30th June 2021.

- As the 2nd Framework expired on the 31st March 2021, an administrative decision has been taken to extend that framework for one month until the 30th April 2021 to be coterminous with the 1st D2A framework. An administrative decision was used due to the contract value for the extension period.
- Given the confirmation of funding until the end of June 2021, this report requests approval to extend both frameworks until the 30th June 2021.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The extension of the frameworks will contribute to the Council's policies and the Best Council Plan including delivery of the better lives programme by contributing to: people living longer and healthier lives; helping people to live full, active and independent lives; ensuring that people's quality of life is improved by access to quality services; involving people in decisions made about them, and; helping people to live in healthy and sustainable communities.

3. Resource Implications

- The funding for the D2A service is delivered through the NHS COVID-19 budget via NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which was available until the 31st March 2021 however, the Department of Health and Social Care have announced the continuation of funding for the hospital discharge service until the 30th June 2021.
- The CCG has confirmed that funding is available for this provision until the 30th June 2021.
- The fees for the beds commissioned under the framework are set at the current agreed care home fee rates. The full amount of the fee is paid whilst the bed is occupied and a retainer of 50% of the fee is paid when the bed is unoccupied. With the number of beds currently called off under the framework, the maximum cost to be funded under the extension period will not exceed £436,016.

Recommendations

The Director of Adults and Health is recommended to:

- a) Extend both framework contracts (DN501376 & DN511940) for a further period of 2 months from the 1st May 2021 to the 30th June 2021 as permitted under the framework terms to the list of providers in Appendix 1.
- b) Note the Commissioning Manager for Older People's Services will issue the framework extension letters once the decision has been approved.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek approval to extend the Discharge to Assess frameworks for a period of 2 months from the 1st May 2021 to the 30th June 2021.

2. Background information

- 2.1 On 19 March 2020, Central Government published guidance on COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements. This placed a duty on local authorities to assume lead commissioning and contracting responsibilities for “expanding the capacity in domiciliary care, care homes and reablement services in the local area”. D2A supports the swift placement of medically fit patients from acute hospital settings to a care home where they are able to recuperate and have a full assessment of their needs in a more appropriate environment.
- 2.2 Through a delegated decision published on the 2nd November 2020, referenced D52435, the Director of Adults and Health approved the award of a framework of independent sector care home providers to provide discharge to assess (D2A) beds in the care home to allow people to be discharged from hospital and receive an assessment in a more appropriate setting during the pandemic. The framework was let for a period of 6 months until the 30th April 2021, with the option to extend for up to a further 6 months in any combination subject to confirmation of a funding source.
- 2.3 To augment the number of providers on the original framework, a further tender exercise was undertaken, and through a decision published on the 4th December 2020, referenced D52543, the Director of Adults and Health approved a further award to independent sector care homes for a period of 4 months until the 31st March 2021, with the option to extend for up to a further 6 months in any combination subject to confirmation of a funding source.
- 2.4 The beds called off under the framework are managed through the Bed Bureau which is a service operated by the Leeds Community Health Care NHS Trust.
- 2.5 The number of beds called off under the framework has varied throughout the contract period however, the current number of beds to be extended under the report is 85, located in 17 independent sector care homes in the city.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The discharge to assess beds have been providing a vital resource during the pandemic allowing people to be discharged from the Leeds hospitals within the shortest timeframe possible once they medically fit for discharge. This frees up the hospital bed for other people and allows an assessment of individual’s needs to be assessed in a more appropriate setting.
- 3.2 The current frameworks for the discharge to assess service expire on the 30th April 2021. Under the frameworks, there is an option to extend for a period of up to 6 months.
- 3.3 The funding for the D2A service is delivered through the NHS COVID-19 budget via NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and recently the Department of Health and Social Care announced the continuation of funding for the hospital discharge service until the 30th June 2021.
- 3.4 As the CCG has confirmed that funding is in place for these frameworks until the 30th June 2021, approval is being sought to extend the current frameworks for a further 2 months until the 30th June 2021.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that some discharge to bed capacity will be required beyond June 2021, however the full requirements are currently under consideration. Analysis of usage of the provision over the past six months is currently being completed, including what type of provision i.e. residential, nursing, dementia provision, was in highest demand. Detailed analysis of the data will inform the amount and type of

provision that is likely to be required beyond the end of June 2021, leading into and over the winter period. Future funding streams and payment arrangements are also yet to be determined. Once this work has been completed, a further report with recommendations will be brought for consideration and approval in accordance with the Delegated Decision process.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 The Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults has been briefed on this decision.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment Screening Tool has been completed and is included at Appendix 2.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The extension of the frameworks will contribute to the Council's policies and the Best Council Plan including delivery of the better lives programme by contributing to: people living longer and healthier lives; helping people to live full, active and independent lives; ensuring that people's quality of life is improved by access to quality services; involving people in decisions made about them, and; helping people to live in healthy and sustainable communities.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 The recommendations in this report do not directly impact on the Climate Emergency however, in our overarching agreement with care homes, the providers are encouraged and supported to reduce their carbon footprint and to adopt greener working practices as and where possible.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 The funding for the D2A service is delivered through the NHS COVID-19 budget via NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which was available until the 31st March 2021 however, the Department of Health and Social Care has announced the continuation of funding for the hospital discharge service until the 30th June 2021.

4.4.2 The CCG has confirmed that funding is available for these frameworks until the 30th June 2021.

4.4.3 The fees for the beds commissioned under the framework are paid at the current agreed care home fee rates and are paid for on the basis 100% of the fee is paid whilst the bed is occupied with a retainer of 50% of the fee being paid whilst unoccupied. With the number of beds currently called off under the framework, the maximum cost to be funded under the extension period for both frameworks will not exceed £436,016.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 The decisions highlighted in this report will be taken by the Director of Adults and Health in line with the officer delegation scheme as detailed in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.
- 4.5.2 This decision is a Significant Operational Decision and is therefore not subject to call-in. There are no access to information issues arising as a result of this decision.
- 4.5.3 Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the extension of this contract under CPRs 21.2, the contents of this report should be noted. In making their final decision, the Director of Adults and Health should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for the Council.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 The beds commissioned as part of the D2A service have been a vital resource for the health and care system in the city allowing the freeing up of hospital beds to deal with the significant numbers of additional patients being treated in the city hospitals during the pandemic.
- 4.6.2 If this provision is not secured, there is a high risk that the flow of people out of the hospital could be severely affected and cause additional strain on hospital resources during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Given the Department of Health and Social Care's continuation of the funding for the discharge to assess scheme and confirmation from the CCG that this funding is available until the 30th June 2021, the extension of the current frameworks will help to ensure that flow through the hospital is maximised during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Director of Adults and Health is recommended to:
 - a) Extend both framework contracts (DN501376 & DN511940) for a further period of 2 months from the 1st May 2021 to the 30th June 2021 as permitted under the framework terms to the list of providers in Appendix 1.
 - b) Note the Commissioning Manager for Older People's Services will issue the Framework extension letters once the decision has been approved.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.