

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 14 September 2017

Report of the Director of Commissioning

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All

Supporting Patients Choice to Avoid Long Hospital Stays Policy and Funding Framework

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

Clare Mattinson, 07500 065525, Policy, Information and Commissioning Manager
(Age Well)

clare.mattinson@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Supporting Patients Choices to Avoid Long Hospital Stays Policy has been developed locally by NHS organisation and local authorities operating in the area of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Sustainability and Transformation Partnership. It is based on a national framework issued by NHS England. The aim of the policy is to provide accurate and timely information to patients about their choices when leaving hospital, improve patient flow and increase capacity within hospital to meet growing demand.

To minimise delays and uncertainty about which organisation has funding responsibility for meeting the support needs of particular individuals in the context of this policy, a funding framework has also been developed by NHS and Local Authority partners within the Lancashire and South Cumbria Partnership.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No. 25 have been complied with.

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended:

- (i) To approve the Supporting Patients Choice to Avoid Long Hospital Stays Policy for Lancashire and South Cumbria attached at Appendix 'A'.

- (ii) To approve the adoption of the Funding Framework at Appendix 'B';
- (iii) To authorise the Director of Adult Services, in conjunction with the Director of Financial Resources, to finalise the County Council's own implementation arrangements for the policy and funding framework as and when it has received approval by other NHS and local authority organisations.

Background and Advice

In March 2016, NHS England produced a policy template in relation to Supporting Patients Choices to Avoid Long Hospital Stays. Its aim was to support local health and social care systems to reduce the time people spend in hospital, when they are ready to be discharged and no longer need acute care, but are delayed whilst making decisions about or making arrangements for their ongoing care. These documents were produced in consultation with a range of stakeholders including LGA, ADASS and Public Health England. The 2015 NICE guidance 'Transition between inpatient hospital settings and community or care home settings for adults with social care needs' also provides further context.

Prior to the development of the national policy template, all hospital Trusts in Lancashire had been developing their own policies for supporting patients' choices to avoid delayed discharge policies, often referred to as 'Home of Choice' policy. This approach was challenging to implement consistently across the whole of Lancashire and South Cumbria, as each Trust's policy and procedures were different, which made it potentially confusing for patients and families, and for practitioners and managers in the various agencies to understand. It was therefore agreed to work in partnership to develop a single policy covering the whole of Lancashire and South Cumbria.

NHS organisations and local authorities in Lancashire and South Cumbria have therefore adapted the national policy so that it can be used in all the hospital settings across its footprint. The policy is set out at Appendix 'A'.

There is also a range of procedures and patient information, designed to support the implementation of the policy, and to ensure consistent messages to patients within each hospital setting.

Lancashire County Council has been a partner in this collaborative process and contributed to the development of the policy throughout. The Director of Adult Services for Lancashire has also worked with other Directors of Adult Social Care from Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Cumbria, to agree a common position in relation to the risk and issues the policy presents to local authorities. This has been shared with NHS partners and has influenced the development of the policy.

In addition, to support the policy, the Directors of Adult Social Care have jointly developed a funding framework which is set out at Appendix 'B'. This has been shared with and endorsed by NHS organisations through the Lancashire and South

Cumbria Urgent and Emergency Care network. For those very limited number of situations where the application of the policy leads to a potential eviction from Hospital, a risk share agreement and pooled budget will be needed to meet the costs of interim placements or support. It is proposed to use the governance arrangements underpinning the Better Care Fund in Lancashire to establish appropriate mechanisms.

The policy and funding framework has now been endorsed by the Urgent and Emergency Care Network, but each NHS organisation and local authority needs to seek formal approval and support for the implementation of the policy through their own governance structures. The aim is for implementation of the new policy to take place in September/October 2017 across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

Consultations

Wider public consultation was undertaken in relation to the national policy template. The policy for Lancashire and South Cumbria has not been consulted upon specifically, as it is a development of that national policy. However, there will be a four week online engagement exercise, informing patients of the new policy and taking any feedback to improve future communications.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Personnel

Personnel implications will be dealt with within Adult Social Care. This will include management of staff, staff training and review.

A programme of training is being developed to be delivered across all health and social care teams who manage hospital discharges, to ensure understanding of their responsibilities within the new policy, and to embed the new duties into practice.

Legal

The Policy and supporting guidance places a series of responsibilities on the County Council, in regard to the care and support for adults. All documents will be publically accessible as part of this process, with the aim of reducing legal challenge or complaints due to lack of understanding or transparency.

Equality and Diversity

The national policy itself was subject to a wide range of consultation and its provisions were assessed for their equality impact.

Financial

There are a number of financial implications which have been identified as part of the policy development. To address these financial risks, the Directors of Adults Social Care have developed a financial framework to be mutually agreed with Health partners as set out in Appendix 'B'.

As yet, the value of the additional costs to the County Council are unknown, although it is expected that these changes will only effect a small cohort of people eligible for social care support, and the costs associated will therefore be minimal and closely monitored.

Risk management

- Implementation Risk

Despite the work that has been undertaken and the consensus that has emerged on this, it is of course possible that one of more partner organisations do not approve the policies in their present form. It is therefore intended that the Director of Adult Services is authorised to agree implementation arrangements in the light of the decisions of all relevant bodies to approve, amend or reject the policy.

The procedures for delivering the policy have been developed for Lancashire and South Cumbria, although it has been agreed that there can be minor modifications to meet needs of each hospital trust. There is a risk that this could impact on Adult Social care operation teams in terms of management and monitoring of the policy implementation. Therefore, Lancashire County Council has requested that there is a management and governance group, created with representation for all health partners to review and monitor the policy, associated procedures and funding.

- Reputational risk

There is a risk to organisational reputations if all partners do not agree to support and implement the policy and delayed discharges may occur as a result. This policy has been developed from a national template agreed by partners in Health and Social Care, including the Association of Director of Adult Social Services. However, it is also likely that the application of this policy could lead to public and media interest in those exceptional cases where individuals are evicted from hospitals.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
NICE guidance 'Transition between inpatient hospital settings and community or care home settings for adults with social care needs'. - https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng27	2015	Clare Mattinson/ 07500 065525

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A