Supporting Patients Choice to Avoid Long Hospital Stays Policy – Draft Policy Framework for Funding and Commissioning Interim Support

Supporting Patients Choice to Avoid Long Hospital Stays Policy

The Draft Policy Framework for Funding and Commissioning Interim Support is designed to support the new Supporting Patients Choice to Avoid Long Hospital Stays Policy and Procedures across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

It is expected that the framework will be reviewed and updated when the new Discharge to Assess model for Lancashire and South Cumbria is developed and implemented. Interim Support are not 'discharge to assess' beds and should not be used in this way.

Background and Purpose to the Framework

The four Directors of Adult Social Care across the STP footprint are committed to working in partnership with colleagues from the NHS to reduce long stays in hospital and agree a single Supporting Patients Choice to Avoid Long Hospital Stays Policy. Whilst work is taking place to produce a single policy and standardised procedures across Lancashire and South Cumbria, it has been identified there are number of funding issues in relation to interim Support which need to be considered and agreed, to enable the new ways of working to be effective.

This paper aims to set out a framework for interim Support outlining commissioning, funding and case management responsibilities.

What is an Interim Support?

An Interim Support is a short term stay in a residential or nursing home but can also be a package of care which would be offered to people who are medically fit for discharge in a hospital bed, but are experiencing an extended wait for their ideal support service to be sourced or to commence. Interim Support are also sometimes referred to as 'step out beds' but can also be care at home. Interim Support will be offered to a patient in line with the new policy where a decision on how to meet the person's need has been made but either the specific package, support, or adaptation is not readily available, or in circumstances where the patient refuses the alternative service offered.

Who will interim Support be appropriate for?

- Service users who have already been assessed by Adult Social Care or the NHS or are a Self-Funder, and are waiting for a home care or reablement package of support or for a bed in a specific residential or nursing home that is not yet available.
- Service users who are experiencing an extended wait for agreed essential works to be carried out on their home environment to ensure a safe discharge
- Service users who are awaiting a full Continuing Health Care assessment or decision.
- Service Users who have been offered an alternative service where their ideal or preferred service is not immediately available, and have refused this

Interim Support are not appropriate for?

- Interim Support are not suitable for Service users who still require rehabilitation or a high level of therapeutic input that cannot be provided in the community.

People who Lack Capacity

Where a patient lacks capacity to make decisions about whether they should be discharged into an Interim Placement or home with a support package the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 should be followed. Please refer to Appendix 2 within the Supporting Patients Choice to Avoid Long Hospital Stays Policy.

Financial Impact for Local Authorities

Within the new Supporting Patients Choice to Avoid Long Hospital Stays Policy, once the available options have been discussed with the patient they have up to seven consecutive days to consider these. If discharge is not achieved within these 7 days, discussions then commence regarding Interim Support. There are potential additional costs to Local Authorities as previously the patient may well have remained in Hospital for a longer period to await their ideal service commencing, at little or no cost to Adult Social Care. Where an Interim Support is to be commissioned and funded by Adult Social Care as part of the new policy, in many cases this will be period of increased cost to the Local Authority – especially where the ideal service is one based in the person's own home.

Interim Support Framework - The framework aims to set out the commissioning, funding and case management responsibilities of each organisation for interim Support against specific discharge pathways (excluding Discharge to Assess) to reduce long term stays in hospital.

	Scenario ↓	Definition	Funding Responsibility for ideal service	Designated Contracting/ Commissioner of ideal service provision on discharge	Funding Responsibility for **INTERIM SUPPORT** due to delay	Responsible Organisation for Case Management in **INTERIM SUPPORT**	Duration of funding following discharge into **INTERIM SUPPORT**	Proposed Adult Social Care (ASC)position
1a	**Homecare Package Delay**	Assessment completed, patient requires domiciliary homecare. Care package has been sourced but cannot commence when required OR no care provider yet secured.	Self-Funder	Self-Funder (may request support from ASC to source & commission care package)	Service User/NHS	Service User/NHS	Until start date of care package starts	No decision required
1b	**Homecare Package Delay**	Assessment completed, patient requires domiciliary homecare (includes service users where ASC source commission and manage the service on behalf of an individual paying full cost of the service – known as 'full cost' service users). Care package has been sourced but cannot commence when required OR no care provider yet secured.	Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care (includes service users where ASC source, commission and manage the service on behalf of an individual paying full cost of the service)	Adult Social Care – Charging Policy Applies.	Adult Social Care	Until start date of care package starts – charging policy applies	ASC will charge the individual the Dom Care rate during interim Support
1c	**Homecare Package Delay**	Assessment completed, patient requires domiciliary homecare. Care package has been sourced but cannot commence when required OR no care provider yet secured.	NHS - CHC	NHS	NHS	NHS	Until start date of care package starts	No decision required
1d	**Homecare Package Delay**	Assessment completed, patient requires domiciliary homecare. Funding is agreed between the NHS & ASC. Care package has been sourced but cannot commence when required OR no care provider yet secured.	Joint NHS & Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care	Adult Social / NHS shared	Adult Social Care	Until start date of care package	Support be funded in the same ratio as the ideal service funding ratio
2	**Reablement**	Assessment completed, Service user	ASC/NHS	Adult Social Care	Adult Social	Adult Social	Until Reablement	Preferred pathway is

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	Service Delay	requires Reablement. . Reablement has been sourced but cannot commence when required.	(BCF)		Care	Care	start date.	through rehab beds if available
3a	**Adaptation or equipment delay**	Assessment completed. Service user waiting for home improvement or equipment to be installed and is unable to return home until this takes place.	Adult Social Care (or DFG)	Adult Social Care (or District Council via DFG)	Adult Social Care – Charging Policy Applies.	Adult Social Care	Until work completed and service user can return home- charging policy applies	Homecare rate charged during Interim Support
3b	**Adaptation or equipment delay**	Assessment completed. Service user waiting for home improvement or equipment to be installed and is unable to return home until this takes place.	NHS	NHS	NHS	NHS	Until work completed and service user can return home- charging policy applies	No decision required
4a	**Home of Choice**	Assessment completed. Service user's preferred Residential or nursing care Support not immediately available or family unable to assist quickly enough - service user will accept interim alternative Support	Self-Funder	Self-Funder (may request support from ASC to source Support)	Self-Funder	Self-Funder	Self-Funder	No decision required
4b	**Home of Choice**	Assessment completed. Service user's preferred Residential or nursing care Support not immediately available or family unable to assist quickly enough - service user will accept interim alternative Support	Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care – Charging Policy applies	Adult Social Care – ongoing support to achieve preferred Support	Until preferred Support is available, or decision made to remain in interim Support charging policy applies. Refer to section 30 of care Act regarding Top Up's.	No decision required
4c	**Home of**	Assessment completed. Service	NHS	NHS	NHS	NHS	Process and	No decision required

	Scenario	Definition	Funding Responsibility for ideal service	Designated Contracting/ Commissioner of ideal service provision on discharge	Funding Responsibility for **INTERIM SUPPORT** due to delay	Responsible Organisation for Case Management in **INTERIM SUPPORT**	Duration of funding following discharge into **INTERIM SUPPORT**	Proposed Adult Social Care (ASC)position
	Choice	user's preferred Residential or nursing care Support not immediately available or family unable to assist quickly enough - service user will accept interim alternative Support					management to be determined by NHS	
4d	**Home of Choice – Escalation process commenced (potential eviction from Hospital)**	Assessment completed and service option identified but not available quickly enough or service user has not chosen preferred Support. The Policy has been followed and service user or representative refuses to accept alternative options offered to support discharge.	Self-Funder *or* Adult Social Care *or* NHS	Self-Funder *or* Adult Social Care *or* NHS	NHS, but close liaison to take place with ASC where there will be a transfer of funding responsibility, to avoid unaffordable ongoing costs.	NHS until individual accepts Council involvement	Until full assessment is completed and support plan agreed and implemented	Proposal to pool financial risk on this across Health and Social Care system.

Expected to be a very small cohort of people but costs need to be closely monitored during initial months |
| **5a** | **CHC Assessment** | Full assessment not yet completed. Service user triggers on the Continuing Health Care checklist and is awaiting full CHC DST assessment.

CHC Framework guidance applies in that the NHS is responsible for funding all care provision until the CHC assessment and decision takes place. | NHS | NHS | NHS (CHC Framework guidance applies as per 'Definition' column) | NHS (CHC Framework guidance applies as per 'Definition' column) | Until CHC assessment is completed and decision made. | NHS to fund 7 days to ensure consistency with national CHC guidance |

Table Glossary:

Definition – Definition of each scenario to be considered and stage in the assessment process

Funding Responsibility for Ideal Service – Is the service user a self-funder or determining which organisation is responsible for that services users on going care.

Designated Contractor/Commissioner of Ideal Service Provision on Discharge - This is the organisation who is responsible for commissioning and arranging the ideal service and would hold a contract with the service providers.

Funding Responsibility for Interim Support – This is who would be responsible for funding any interim Support required due to the ideal service being delayed, and to which organisations the charging policy applies.

Responsible Organisation for Case Management in the Interim Support - This is the organisation who is responsible for case managing Service users during their time in an interim Support. This organisation will have responsibilities for the service user and must communicate with all relevant stakeholders. They must ensure clear hand over procedures are in place and relevant IT systems are updated.

Duration of Funding Following Discharge into an Interim Support– Outlines how long the responsible organisation/person will fund the interim Support.