

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 5 September 2017

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

(Appendices 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' refers)

Contact for further information:

Tony Pounder, Tel 01772 538841, Director of Adult Services, Lancashire County Council,
tony.pounder@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.

Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to endorse this collaborative policy framework at Appendices 'A' and 'B' and support its adoption across the footprint of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Sustainability and Transformation Partnership.

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 (Local Government Association), ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Services) and Public Health England. The 2015 NICE (National Institute of Clinical Excellence) 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. Therefore, it was 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. This is the policy 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. These are also attached as Appendices 'C' and 'D'.

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 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 for Lancashire residents.

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.

Given the importance of the policy for improving discharge flow across the health and social care system, and the potential public interest in the application of the policy, the Health and Wellbeing Board is also asked to consider the policy framework and provide its endorsement.

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.

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 LCC are unknown, however 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.

List of Background Papers

Paper

Date

Contact

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>

Clare Mattinson
clare.mattinson@lancashire.gov.uk