

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee  
**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> July 2006  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director Health and Community  
**SUBJECT:** Intermediate Care Crisis Beds  
**WARDS:** Borough Wide

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the authority to continue with the contract for two Intermediate Care Crisis beds with Southern Cross/Highfield health care (Beechcroft Care Home), for up to a further six months, to suspend contract standing orders 2.2-2.6, 2.8-2.13, and approve delegated powers to enter into a contract without going out to competitive tender. This updates permission granted by Executive Sub Board on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

## **2 RECOMMENDED: That**

- (1) **for the purposes of SO16c, standing orders be waived as compliance is not practicable for the reason of the level of training and support that has been provided within this environment, and the need to continue to operate the service; 2 Intermediate Care crisis beds in Runcorn.**
- (2) **Contract standing orders 2.2-2.6, 2.8-2.13 be waived on this occasion and the contract for Intermediate Care Crisis Services for the period from March 31<sup>st</sup> for up to 6 months to be awarded to the Southern Cross/Highfield health care (Beechcroft Care Home).**

## **3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Oaklodge Care home in Runcorn (CLS) were awarded a contract in 2003, to provide 10 specialist Intermediate Care Beds. On the 27<sup>th</sup> July we were informed that the care home would be closing, a four-week notice period was given.
- 3.2 Due to the short notice period, we immediately ceased admissions to the unit, to ensure that we were able to facilitate appropriate discharges, and the unit was closed on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2005.
- 3.3 The Beechcroft crisis beds were opened on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2005, these beds are an essential part of our service, and enables us to manage more complex risk issues, negating the need to admit

unnecessarily to more intensive services.

- 3.4 During the past 6 months, an intensive level of training and support has been provided to the staff supporting this bed provision, and a network of relationships with the Intermediate Care Team has been forged.
- 3.5 The Outcomes for service users have been positive and supported the overall aims of Intermediate Care.

#### **4 WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS**

- 4.1.1 Compliance with standing orders is not practicable for reasons of commercial detriment to the council in line with the level of training and support that has been provided within this setting. SO16c.
- 4.1.2 his request for waiver of standing orders 2.2-2.6, 2.8-2.13 is made retrospectively, 12<sup>th</sup> February, due to the need to continue to keep these beds operational.
- 4.1.3 Waiver is requested for a period of 6 months, to allow sufficient time to tender for the provision of this service, and ensure that we are able to provide any additional training required, to a new provider, and complete the review of the overall service provision, within the framework of standing orders.
- 4.1.4 If waiver of standing orders is not agreed, this will result in a real decrease in service provision, particularly in Runcorn. This could result in an increase in admissions both to long-term care and hospital, due to the lack of services in the community.
- 4.1.5 This would also result in inequity of provision across the Borough, as Widnes residents can access Oak Meadow Intermediate care beds. Local services are important in supporting people to return home.

#### **5 THE INTERMEDIATE CARE CRISIS BEDS**

- 5.1 Intermediate care is a range of services that aim to prevent unnecessary admission to hospital and long-term residential and nursing care, facilitate earlier discharge from hospital, and support people to remain in their own homes as independently as possible. The crisis beds are 2 residential care beds which will be block purchased. These beds are for use by the Rapid Access Rehabilitation Service and other designated teams to admit people assessed in the community where their environmental and /or social circumstances determine that to remain in their own home would pose unmanageable risks. It should be identified that these risks can be resolved in a timely manner to enable the person to return home and continue with a programme of rehabilitation/reablement.

- 4.2 There will be an agreed admission criteria for access to the beds.

- 4.3 During the six -month period we plan to evaluate their usage to ensure appropriateness and effectiveness, and on the basis of this proceed with a tender process for provision of these beds over a longer period of time, if required up to 3 years.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Funding for this service will continue to be from Access and Systems Capacity Grant and Vulnerable Adults Task Force (part NRF funding with HBC and PCT match), the funding is available at least until 2008, therefore no additional funding will be required.
- 5.2 The actual cost of the contract for 6 months is £14,832

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATION**

- 6.1 The development of intermediate care services supports the Boroughs priority of improving health. The use of crisis beds are part of the wider development of an approach to intermediate care that is being developed by the Intermediate Care sub-group of the National Service Framework Local Implementation Team for Older Peoples Services.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Older people are often excluded from services or discriminated against in service provision on the basis of their advancing years. This services focuses on maximizing someone's recovery so they can maintain their independence and live at home in the community as long as possible.