

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 28 March 2013
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health & Adults
SUBJECT: NHS support for Social Care
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To inform Members of the Executive Board of recent announcements about NHS support for Social Care.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board approve the revised funding allocation as detailed in paragraph 5.3.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In previous years the Department of Health has allocated non-recurrent budget allocations to Primary Care Trusts for social care totalling £648m in 2011/12 and £622m in 2012/13. This funding was allocated nationally to PCTs, for transfer to Local Authorities to invest in social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain.

3.2 The allocation for Halton was £1,709M in 2011/12 and £1,645M in 2012/13.

3.3 The transfer of funds from the PCT to the Local Authority was progressed within a partnership agreement, and agreed at Executive Board on the 31st March 2011 and subsequently updated the Executive Board on the 12th January 2012.

4.0 **CURRENT POSITION**

4.1 On the 19th December 2012 the Department of Health announced revised allocations and transfer arrangements. From 2013/14 the funding transfer to Local Authorities will be carried out by the new NHS Commissioning Board. For 2013/14 Halton will expect to receive £2,287,560.

The payments are once again to be made via an agreement under Section 256 of the 2006 NHS Act. A number of conditions must be satisfied, prior to the transfer of funding:

- The funding must be used to support Adult Social Care Services, which also has a Health benefit.
- The Local Authority must agree with local Health partners how the funding is best used and the outcomes expected from this investment.
- It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing boards are the most appropriate place to discuss the allocations, ensuring that there is regard to the JSNA and existing commissioning plans.
- The allocation may be used to support new or existing services or transformation programmes, where such services or programmes are of benefit to the wider health and care systems, provide good outcomes for service users, and would be reduced due to budget pressures in Local Authorities without this investment.
- The Board will also have regard to the recommendations from “Caring for our future” White paper, which may require some small revenue costs.
- The Local Authority will be required to provide assurances to the NHS commissioning Board, that the conditions for funding transfer are being met.

4.2 A similar report was presented to the Health and well Being Board who supported the investment outlined in this report.

4.3 In addition, HBC have been allocated Winter Pressures funding of £223k for 2012/13, which will be used to :-

- Strengthen integrated discharge arrangements at Warrington and Whiston Hospitals and Intermediate Care Services;
- Increase capacity within the partnerships Reablement Services;
- Increase intermediate care bed capacity in Nursing/ Residential homes; and
- Increase resources available via Joint Equipment Service due to increased demand.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 As a Council with Adult Social Care Responsibilities Halton Borough Council faces a number of challenges over the next 2 years related to some of the unique circumstances within the Borough, including:

- Efficiency savings of approximately £14M per annum
- Projected population growths of 7%, and projected increases in

the number of older people of 33%

- Third highest levels of deprivation in Merseyside
- All age all-cause mortality rates are higher than the regional and national average
- Projected rise in people requiring community based services from 3,340 to 4,220

Whilst the above remain a challenge, the Council in partnership with Halton Clinical Commissioning Group have been trying hard to improve outcomes and provide safe services. Elected Members have continued to support this by increasing the community care budget by £300,000 per annum over 3 years. In addition new care pathways and new technology such as Telecare have been introduced to support more people at home.

5.2 In light of the current financial and other pressures within the LA it is proposed that the majority of this allocation is utilised to support existing services, which are of benefit to the wider health and care systems and provide good outcomes for service users.

5.3 Funding allocations from 2012/13 have been reviewed and exit strategies/service redesign opportunities have ensured mainstreaming of these projects demonstrating good outcomes.

Proposed funding allocation for 2013/14:

- Maintain the Telecare Service- £140k
- Additional support to the community care budget £500k
- Remaining allocation to support mainstream service delivery of £1,647,560 and to be utilised as part of the Council efficiency savings, to maintain eligibility for adult social care at moderate, maintain LA support to the Intermediate Care pool and to maintain the level of social care support to hospital discharge processes.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

To maintain the capacity, quality and range of social care services

ensuring that the services provided are relevant to the health, social care and cultural needs of the local population and support people to remain as independent as practicable through a rehabilitative and enabling approach to care delivery.

6.4 A Safer Halton

To maintain safe and effective discharge from hospital for residents of Halton. Promote the protection and dignity of vulnerable adults.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 As outlined in paragraphs 5.1 – 5.3 of this report there are increasing financial pressures on the Local Authority's budget, in particular on the Community Care Budget.

7.2 If the proposals in relation to the revised funding allocations, as outlined in paragraph 5.3, are not approved, then this will have a severe detrimental effect on the ability of the Council to be able to deliver existing services, for example Telecare Services, as there is no alternative funding available to deliver this particular service.

7.3 In addition, if the proposal to use a significant proportion of the allocation to support mainstream service delivery isn't supported, then this will also impact on the Council's ability to meet the required annual efficiency savings.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 No adverse impact and positively promotes social inclusion.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

9.1 The transfer of funds to Local Authorities from Health in order to invest in social care services to benefit and improve overall health is a national requirement.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 The options for the use of the 2013/14 funding allocations as outlined in paragraph 5.3, present social care and the Local Authority as a whole with the most cost effective use of the resources available and offer the best outcomes for service users and carers.

11.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

11.1 Transfer of funds to take effect from 1st April 2013.

12.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Executive Board report 31/03/11	Municipal Building Widnes	Strategic Director Communities
Executive Board report 12/01/12	Municipal Building Widnes	Strategic Director Communities