

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 28th September 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Intermediate Care & Frailty Services in Halton: Update

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an update on implementation of a new model for the delivery of Intermediate Care & Frailty Services in the Borough, since the last update report presented to the Board in February 2021.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED: That the Board

(1) Note contents of the report and associated appendices.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 3.1 As outlined in the previous report to Board in February 2021, although it was recognised that we were in the midst of the Pandemic and the system was under some considerable pressure, we felt that we needed to capitalise on the success creating capacity in the system had brought us and as such felt it was appropriate to revisit the recommendations of the previous Intermediate Care (IC) review.
- 3.2 Taking into account the review and the impact that the Pandemic has had on current structures, processes and pathways, work has been taken forward on the development and implementation of the new model for the delivery of IC and Frailty Services via the IC Review Steering Group (Multi Agency group), chaired by Halton's Director of Adult Social Services, supported by an IC Operational Group.

New Intermediate Care & Frailty Service (ICFS)

- 3.3 As outlined in the previous report, one of the key aspects of the new Service will be the introduction of a Single Point of Access (SPA) and the integration of the previous frailty service provided by the Halton Integrated Frailty Service (HIFS), with the ability to provide a Community Rapid Response within 2 hours, if assessed as necessary.

The aim of the SPA is to ensure people receive the necessary interventions for those needing rehabilitation, to promote independence, prevent unnecessary hospital admission and facilitate discharge from Hospital.

The key objective of the SPA is therefore to ensure the seamless, safe management of

referrals for people requiring Adult Community Services, either to potentially prevent an admission, support early discharge or coordinate care 'closer to home.'

Further details on the model can be found at **Appendix 1**. The Pathway into the new ICFS can be found at **Appendix 2**.

- 3.4 The model as a whole will be resourced by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of clinicians, nurses, therapists, administrative and social care staff.
- 3.5 The main focus of work over the past few months has to ensure that model has been agreed through organisation's various governance processes, undertaking the necessary staff consultation and progressing the recruitment required to ensure the model is appropriately staffed.
- 3.6 At the time of writing this report recruitment is progressing very well and at present organisations are not experiencing any issues in the ability to recruit the numbers of staff required; however, this will be kept under review.
- 3.9 As it will take a few months to recruit to all the posts and for individuals to commence employment, the IC Steering Group is currently looking at a phased approach to 'going live' with the model. However, it is anticipated that various elements of the model will be able to 'go live' from the beginning of December 2021 with full implementation soon after.
- 3.10 The long term ambition would be for those individuals with complex requirements to be referred onto and managed via the Primary Care Hub MDTs, however until these are developed further individuals would remain on the service for up to two weeks receiving the necessary interventions.

It is recognised that the introduction of a new model will not be the end of developments and it is anticipated that during 2022/23 further work will take place to assess the potential to expand the SPA to include Community Nursing and Community Therapy referrals from Hospital and the community, as well as linking in with the Primary Care Hub developments referenced above.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Associated changes in processes/operating procedures are required to support the new approach/model and have been/continue to be developed.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Any changes in approach/model provision are being made from within current resources available.
- 5.2 A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been drawn up between Halton Borough Council, NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group, Bridgewater Community Health NHS Foundation Trust and Warrington & Halton Hospital's NHS Foundation Trust regarding the implementation of the new model.

Formal future contracting arrangements, including a detailed Service Specification will be introduced to support the new model at the appropriate time.

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**

The effective and efficient provision of IC & Frailty Services in Halton is directly linked to this priority.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 We have capitalised on the opportunity the Pandemic has provided us with i.e. the creation of capacity within Intermediate and Domiciliary Care Services and a change in pathways and associated processes. This will ensure that the new ICFS in Halton is in a strong position to be able to effectively deliver necessary and appropriate services to those who require it within the Borough.

7.2 An associated risk register, with risk control measures, has been developed in respect to the implementation of the new Model. This risk register is kept under review and updated as necessary following every meeting of the IC Steering Group.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

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

9.1	Document	Place of Inspection
	An independent review, via the Local Government Association (LGA), by Dennis Holmes	Copies available from Damian Nolan Damian.nolan@halton.gov.uk
	A North West Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (NW ADASS) Peer Review	