

24 May 2023

Agenda Item 7

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

USE OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY NATIONAL DISCHARGE GRANT 2023-24

Purpose of the Report

1. For the Nottinghamshire Health and Well Being Board to sign off the 2023/24 plan to use the national Discharge Grant to build on and grow existing development plans in line with the grant criteria.

Information

2. A national commitment has been made to funding a two-year Discharge Grant, pooled into the local Better Care Fund (BCF). The budget has been confirmed for 2023 to 2024 as £4.335M for adult social care and £5.710M for the Integrated Care Board. Plans need to be developed and agreed jointly, approved by the Chief Executives of the Local Authority and Integrated Care Board and signed off by 28 June 2023 by the Health and Well Being Board under national condition 1 of the BCF.
3. The criteria for the grant are:
 - To build additional adult social care and community based re-ablement capacity to reduce hospital discharge delays through delivering sustainable improvements to services for individuals.
 - Support the principles of Discharge to Assess to enable timely discharges from hospital into appropriate short-term re-ablement/rehabilitation services, pending assessment of any further needs once they are settled back at home
 - Take account of variation in levels of demand and work with local providers to determine how to best build the workforce capacity needed
 - To be informed by learning from previous short term discharge funding such as the recent Winter Fund
 - Improving collaboration and information sharing across health and social care services
4. The following plan has been developed to meet these criteria and to build on existing plans including those based on recommendations from the Local Government Association Review and Nottinghamshire Discharge Assurance Plan. A deliverability assessment was undertaken on the workforce requirements of the plan. A recruitment strategy has been developed to

support delivery, which includes for example, ensuring creative use of different types of roles rather than reliance on roles that are currently difficult to recruit to, new streamlined local recruitment campaigns and processes.

5. Cost for 2023/24 have been based on a pro rata basis for the year where they are not a simple extension and require set up time. The plan will be kept under active monitoring and review to ensure impact and review initiatives to ensure they align with plans, are still required and are the best use of the funds.
6. **Plan for Use of Nottinghamshire County Council Adult Social Care Discharge Grant 2023/24:**

REDUCING DELAYED HOSPITAL DISCHARGES AND SUPPORTING THE PRINCIPLES OF DISCHARGE TO ASSESS

£1,957,960

The new Transfer of Care Hub and Discharge to Assess model was deployed rapidly in the three acute hospitals during Covid. The model has a positive emphasis on supporting people directly home first and access to re-ablement/rehabilitation and therapy prior to any long term decision about people's care and support needs. The model has, however, created additional work for social care staff that has not been fully resourced and therefore the plan is to provide extra social care capacity to:

- provide new roles/capacity to meet higher work turnover timescales in the hospital Transfer of Care Hubs,
- provide the Care Act assessment and therapy capacity needed to work with people following re-ablement/rehabilitation to meet the current gap of an average of 123 people per week waiting in these. Sustained funding will assist with recruiting and retaining staff. Additional temporary funded staff have previously successfully reduced for a short time the number of people waiting.
- increase the numbers of people discharged on Saturdays and Sundays (system model to be agreed in the autumn)
- provide earlier, active review for 1,300 people a year receiving homecare to free up resources that people may no longer need
- improve quality of practice. Supporting staff to be more strength based as well as confident in application of the Mental Capacity Act to ensure good, timely decision making to avoid unnecessary delays
- start to work in partnership with people with lived experience, so that their views inform the development of future services
- undertake joint strategic commissioning and procurement work with social care providers supporting hospital discharge to develop more streamlined processes and integrated working

Demand for Mental Health Services has been increasing significantly over recent years and there are pressures and delays in specialist mental health hospitals. Additional social care capacity is therefore planned to:

- Provide additional social supervision for 50 people a year to reduce hospital delays
- Facilitating timely discharge plans for an additional 50 young people a year
- Reduce delays to people leaving short term mental health recovery services
- Promoting strength based, therapy and recovery led practice

PLANNING SERVICES IN ADVANCE AND ENABLING PROVIDERS TO RECRUIT THEIR WORKFORCE

£734,290

The Council already funds the voluntary sector to visit people who may need a well-being check after going home from hospital with no support. Using last year's Winter Fund this service was extended to support people who do not need personal care but may need someone to help them home and settle them in, make sure the heating is on food in the fridge etc. and do short term follow up work to support a successful recover and build links into local community support. It is proposed to extend this scheme for 600 people per year. Following evaluation the Council will work with the sector to build on the learning from this and also seek to extend investment to use Technology Enabled Care to support people's independence longer and avoid re-admission to hospital or residential care.

Skills for Care will work partners to:

- a) develop an ICS external Workforce Strategy,
- b) inform this by undertaking a deep dive into the external workforce to identify recommendations for interventions for independent sector providers to aid recruitment and
- c) produce a bespoke public website page so people can easily see all the local vacancies in the care sector that they could apply for, to encourage more applications

LEARNING FROM THE EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF PREVIOUS SCHEMES FUNDED USING DISCHARGE FUNDS

£953,000

Previous short term discharge funding has been used to successfully pilot holding one self-contained unit of accommodation at Lombard Street (Mental Health Reablement Supported Accommodation) with wrap around social care and health support. This is for people experiencing mental ill health being discharged from hospital to have short stays of up to approx. 6 weeks while their accommodation is made ready to return to, or if they need a period of more intensive support before going home. This scheme will be extended and can support 9 people a year and avoid delays in hospital.

Previous years has shown that while discharge improvement plans are being implemented, there remains a need for flexible surge capacity to avoid people remaining in hospital at times of high demand. Previously, additional hours for social care staff and additional Technology Enabled Care have been funded and further diagnostic work is needed on the latter to improve how this is deployed to maximise maintaining people's health and wellbeing. Also, although not an ideal outcome for people who could have returned home, use of interim residential care beds have also been able to be deployed rapidly. In 2023/24, although less than in previous years, whilst improvement plans are implemented some of this capacity will still be needed in social care. The additional Care Act assessment and therapy capacity (referenced in the first section on reducing delays) will mean that these people will be actively worked with to plan their return home from interim residential care as soon as resources to support them at home are available.

IMPROVING COLLABORATION AND INFORMATION SHARING ACROSS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

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| £689,750 |
| <p>There is a shared aim to develop therapy led and integrated ways of working across social care and community health re-ablement. The funding of service improvement support is required to support develop and implement joint outcomes, quality assurance and training frameworks, a single access point and shared electronic scheduling system. The impact will be to speed up the discharge process by simplifying the current fragmented referral process, as well as to make more effective use of all staffing resources across providers enabling more people to be supported home earlier.</p> <p>An integrated health and social care therapy training programme has been scoped and supported by the Ageing Well programme Board. This is based on a successful Leicestershire model. Currently the skill set of health and care therapy staff is quite different and therapy staff are also hard to recruit in sufficient numbers. Having staff with the same core set of skills will aid career development, make more effective use of the resources we have and avoid hand overs between health and care therapists. The project requires a dedicated Occupational Therapy post and project support in order to implement, which will be funded from the grant.</p> <p>In order to deliver the strategic commissioning, contract and procurement work to support more efficient discharges from specialist hospitals for people experiencing mental ill health a joint post has been developed and the social care 50% will be funded from the grant.</p> <p>The ICS is undertaking a procurement exercise to identify a strategic transformation partner to support rapid accelerator work to improve hospital discharge and strengthen community services to avoid hospital and residential care admissions. This one-off amount will be funded from the grant and appropriate stretch timescales/measures set through the early part of this work.</p> |
| Nottinghamshire County Council Adult Social Care Grant Total = £4,335,000 |

7. **Proposals for use of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board Adult Social Care Discharge fund 2023/24.** The total fund to the ICB for Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County is £5,710,344.76. The funding in the table shows where this has been allocated (as well as the total estimated spend for the proposals), which will be distributed between the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Health and Wellbeing Boards' Better Care Fund plans using the same population-based methodology as the 22/23 ASC Discharge Fund. The total spend on the proposals will be confirmed in the Better Care Fund Planning Template that will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for final approval.

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| REDUCING DELAYED DISCHARGES |
| £991,967 (approx.) |
| Increasing the capacity of the TOCHs, increasing weekend discharges, and supporting mental health discharges for individuals in specialist mental health hospitals, supporting step up/down from Pathway 2 (includes the ICS Deputy Integrated Discharge Lead). |
| IMPROVING COLLABORATION & INFORMATION SHARING (P1 INTEGRATION & P2/P3T TRANSFORMATION |
| £73,077 (approx.) |

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| Health System Discharge Improvement capacity to work system wide with LAs equivalent roles to support integration, including the integrated health and social therapy training programme, successfully implemented in Leicestershire resulting in therapy staff having the same core set of skills. |
| REDUCING DELAYED DISCHARGES (P1 INTEGRATION) |
| £4,676,956 (approx.) |
| Full delivery of P1 Model and integration of services. |
| INTERIM BED CLOSURE COSTS |
| £25,000 (approx.) |
| Close down costs of the interim beds. |
| Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board Grant Total: £5,767,000 (approx.) |

Other Options Considered

- Other options were considered during the development of the plan. The options chosen are those assessed by staff within the department and partners, as able to address priority gaps in capacity, have an evidence base of delivering improvement, align to existing plans and meet the grant criteria.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

- To agree use of the Discharge Fund to make planned improvements as agreed by partners.

Statutory and Policy Implications

- This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

- The proposed plan can be funded from the national Adult Social Care Discharge Grant 2023/2024 of £4.335m for adult social care and £5.710m for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board. The funding will be pooled and monitored through the Nottinghamshire Better Care Fund. It is expected that fortnightly reporting against the plans will continue.

- The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB total estimated spend is £5,767,000. This will be distributed between the Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Health and Wellbeing Boards' Better Care Fund Plans using the same population-based methodology as was used for the 2022/23 ASC Discharge Fund. This will be confirmed in the Better Care Fund Planning Template that will be presented to Board for approval.

12. There are no direct staffing implications in the proposed plan. Should funding be approved the requirements for establishing posts will be taken through each organisation's relevant governance systems as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board is asked:

- 1) To sign off the plan for use of the Discharge Fund 2023 to 2024.

MELANIE BROOKS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Sue Batty
Service Director Adult Social Care and health
Ageing Well and Community Services
sue.batty@nottsc.gov.uk

Sarah Fleming
Programme Director for System Development
Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board
sarah.fleming1@nhs.net

Constitutional Comments (LPW 16/05/23)

13. The Recommendation falls within the remit of The Health and Wellbeing Board by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (LCD 16/05/23)

14. The proposed plan can be funded from the national Adult Social Care Discharge Grant 2023-2024 of £4.335m and £5.710m from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board. **Details are in paragraph 6 & 7.** The funding will be pooled and monitored through the Nottinghamshire Better Care Fund. It is expected that fortnightly reporting against the plans will continue.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All