

12 March 2018**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, ADULT SOCIAL CARE,
HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION****EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS FOR SUPPORT TO THE EAST MIDLANDS
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to request a twelve months extension for the two fixed term posts of East Midlands Improvement Programme Manager (Care and Health) (Band F, 22 hours per week) and Business Support Administrator (Grade 4, 37 hours per week), until 31st March 2019.

Information

2. Nottinghamshire County Council hosts the regional Improvement Programme for Care and Health in the East Midlands, with funding primarily from the Department of Health. The Corporate Director oversees this work on behalf of the East Midlands Second Tier Councils.
3. The regional Improvement Programme Manager post provides coordination and oversight of regional improvement programmes such as the Sector-Led Improvement Programme, Workforce Development, and the Learning Disability and Transforming Care Programme.
4. The past year has been characterised by a Sector Led Improvement programme with a strong analysis and challenge process combined with peer reviews and focus on priorities for action. This has been combined with bespoke activity to support individual authorities that had particular challenges, for example Delayed Transfers of Care, Use of Resources, or the Better Care Fund.
5. As such, regional resources have been significantly directed to support these two approaches and improve collective understanding of risk and, where possible, how to mitigate that risk. This approach is considered to have considerable merit with tangible benefits in consequence.
6. Priority was given to implementing the regional workforce strategy with a strengthened focus on delivering an agreed work programme focused on developing resources and learning opportunities that individual councils can then adapt and apply to meet their own individual needs.

7. Managing market failure is an issue that cuts across two regional networks, Workforce and Market Shaping and Commissioning. Building on previous work with providers a further workshop is being held in March 2018 bringing together individual councils, NHS commissioners and homecare providers to explore how closer working between homecare providers and health colleagues can both enhance the capacity of frontline carers to support people in their own homes more effectively and generate more interesting jobs and opportunities for career progression thereby improving recruitment and retention.
8. The approach to learning from each other has also added considerable value with respect to Transforming Care for People with Learning Disabilities and a very successful workshop was held focusing on how health and social care can work together more effectively with housing providers.
9. Safeguarding is another priority area and the East Midlands Safeguarding Adults Network continues to provide a valuable focus for councils to come together, explore common issues and provide opportunities to learn from each other.
10. Finally, but by no means least in terms of significance, the Principal Social Workers Network held an excellent workshop for frontline social workers with around 120 attending to consider how social workers can make a significant and unique contribution to how councils and health professionals work together for the benefit of the most frail and vulnerable in our communities.

Other Options Considered

11. This essential cross-regional improvement and development work continues to be needed to put local authorities in a strong position to respond to the challenges facing Adult Social Care. The regional work provides significant opportunities for learning and the sharing of best practice as well as efficiencies in service delivery.
12. Nationally the Local Government Association working closely with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Department of Health has continued to work very effectively with the regions in delivering a Care and Health Improvement Programme. It recognises and values the importance of regional structures in delivering national programmes and priorities e.g. Delayed Transfers of Care.
13. If the posts are to be discontinued then this work would come to an end together with the loss of regional expertise and regional networks. The benefit to the posts being based at Nottinghamshire County Council is that the Council is alerted early on to any national and regional developments as well as enabling Nottinghamshire's good practice to be more readily showcased across the region. If the current arrangement is ended then another local authority would need to be identified to host these posts and the current post holders transferred to another authority.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The Care and Health Improvement Programme, which includes Sector-Led Improvement, Transforming Care, and the Delayed Transfers of Care Improvement Programmes, represent major challenges for local authorities. The work undertaken

by these regional posts is essential in order to assist with the successful implementation of change across the East Midlands based on sharing of good practice and scope for efficiencies in delivery.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. 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

16. These posts are externally funded from the remains of legacy funding from the Joint Improvement Programme, together with Care and Health Improvement Programme funding via the Local Government Association and Department of Health. The region was allocated £45,000 for 2017/18 to support learning networks and other regional activity. A further £45,000 has been promised for 2018/19. However if this additional funding is not forthcoming there are still sufficient funds to resource the regional programme for 2018/19.

Human Resources Implications

17. It is proposed that Nottinghamshire County Council continues to host these posts, and that the Corporate Director, Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection, together with Branch Chair of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, will provide oversight of the work of the post-holders.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the posts of the East Midlands Improvement Programme Manager (Care and Health) (Band F, 22 hours per week) and Business Support Administrator (Grade 4, 37 hours per week) be extended until 31st March 2019.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 07/02/18)

18. The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

Financial Comments (DG 07/02/18)

19. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 16 of this report.

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.

Extension of Contracts for Support to the East Midlands Improvement Programme in Adult Social Care – report to Adult Social Care and Health Committee on 13th March 2017.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

ASCPH526