

4 March 2019**Agenda Item: 7**

REPORT OF THE INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, MID NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

THE MID NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 'BETTER TOGETHER' ALLIANCE AGREEMENT CONTRACT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to seek approval to extend the Council's membership of the Mid Nottinghamshire Better Together Alliance Agreement for a year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Information

The Mid Nottinghamshire Better Together Transformation

2. A report to Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) Committee on 13th March 2017 provided an update on progress with the Better Together programme, which was developed in partnership by Ashfield and Mansfield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Newark and Sherwood CCG, Nottinghamshire County Council, seven NHS health providers and voluntary sector partners. The aim of the Better Together programme is to connect services together to deliver better preventative, self-care approaches and ensure that people can get the right advice in the right place, at the right time. In addition, it aims to put in place joined up, responsive urgent care services, that operate outside of hospital wherever possible.
3. The Better Together Programme Board was the original partnership established to initiate the work and drive the programme. In order to meet the scale and complexity of the challenges that the health and social care system face, the Programme Board agreed that a different type of partnership was required for the future. This partnership would have a different relationship with health providers, focus less on managing issues through individual CCG/Council contracts and more on collaborating to deliver jointly agreed outcomes that require the input of more than one partner. A new partnership also needed to jointly consider and actively sign up to a set of principles that would support difficult decision making, based on what is best for local people and the most effective use of public funds. This resulted in the development of the Better Together Alliance.

The Mid Nottinghamshire Better Together Alliance Agreement

4. The Alliance is made up of three main elements:

- (i) the collaborative partnership and governance system
 - (ii) transparency on the respective local budgets for the CCGs and the Council
 - (iii) how the money is spent. This includes elements of the CCG contracts with health provider Alliance Members being linked into the Alliance contract, starting to be developed into outcome based capitated contracts. The CCG and the Council also have other contracts that currently sit fully outside of the Alliance Agreement. Alongside this sits the Council's system for assessing eligibility for and allocating personal budgets for people's individual care and support packages. This includes the option of people taking the money in the form of a Direct Payment to purchase their own services.
5. The purpose of the Alliance is to provide a financial, governance and contractual framework that delivers the commissioner participants' key current objectives, as well as form a robust partnership to meet future demand from changing levels of need, changing funding levels, new legislation and/or policy imperatives, by:
- (i) ensuring health and care system sustainability through more effectively managing system cost whilst maintaining appropriate quality and service user safety
 - (ii) securing best value for the public sector budget in terms of outcomes per pound spent
 - (iii) ensuring that integrated health and care services are delivered coherently and that fragmentation of service delivery is minimised by reducing organisational, professional and service boundaries
 - (iv) directing resources to the right place in order to adequately and sustainably fund the right care for improved patient outcomes
 - (v) incentivising the achievement of positive outcomes for the benefit of the population's health and wellbeing
 - (vi) supporting the process of transition to new care, support and wellbeing models delivering improved outcomes for service users
 - (vii) protecting and promoting service user choice.
6. The Alliance contract includes a set of principles, objectives and behaviours that the Council has signed up to by joining the Alliance. These align well with the "Guiding principles for an integrated health and social care system" agreed by Members in August 2015. Other content includes an Outcomes Framework and scope of services.
7. The term of the original agreement was three years (2016/17 – 2018/19) with an option to extend for a further seven years. The three-year period was agreed to allow a period of further development of various aspects of the Better Together model, including a) capitated payment mechanism for health providers, b) expanding the outcomes-based payment model for NHS service contracts, c) risk and reward mechanisms and d) ongoing development of models of care. The agreement provides for an Alliance member to terminate its participation by giving three months' notice in the event of a policy change at national or local government level which materially impacts on any member's ability to participate in the Alliance.

8. ASCH Committee approved the recommendation for the Council to join the Better Together Alliance as a Full Member in March 2016. This approval was noted by Policy Committee in April 2016.
9. Being a Full Member of the Alliance gives the Council voting rights at the Better Together Board and means that the Council has the ability to influence NHS priorities in Mid Nottinghamshire due to being present in all the relevant discussions. Approval of decisions must be unanimous. Full Membership also emphasises the important role that ASCH and Public Health should have in any strategic decision-making that affects the health and wellbeing of people living in Mid-Nottinghamshire. As a Full Member, the Council is also committed to transparent open book accounting wherever possible. There was and is no requirement for the Council to make any changes to structures, decision-making processes or other changes to policy, contract or financial arrangements.

Wider context of the Integrated Care System (ICS) for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

10. Since 2016, the Council has participated in the development of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Sustainability & Transformation Partnership (STP) which has now become an accelerator site as an ICS. This does not make the Mid Nottinghamshire Alliance irrelevant, since it is important that the relevant and prioritised strategic developments agreed for Mid Nottinghamshire should continue. However, Mid Nottinghamshire must plan within the framework set by the ICS.
11. Given the current uncertainty about what the ICS will require to be put in place across the footprint and how this might impact on Mid-Nottinghamshire, it does not seem sensible to recommend that the Council should continue its membership of the Better Together Alliance Agreement for the additional seven-year period proposed back in 2015. For example, if any legal arrangement is required by the ICS, this may need to cover the whole footprint rather than just one part of it. Governance structures may need to change as the management of all the current six CCGs are brought together. Primary Care Networks (PCNs) will develop from being a theoretical concept to a tangible delivery arm across the patch. PCNs are not referenced in the current Alliance Agreement.
12. Given this evolving picture, it is recommended that the Council continues being a Full Member of the Better Together Alliance for a further year whilst the system architecture for the ICS is established. This advantages of this are:
 - a) the Agreement has been sufficient for the Council's purposes over the last three years
 - b) this option maintains the Council's influence and voting rights
 - c) the Council would continue to show its support for the aims and objectives of the Alliance as well as the care models that are operating in Mid Nottinghamshire now; these have delivered many benefits which have been outlined in previous Committee reports.
 - d) having this extra time will allow the Council to review the position after a further 6-8 months and then report back to Committee with further recommendations, before the end of March 2020.

13. This proposal has the support of the recently appointed Chief Executive of all the six CCGs for City, Broxtowe, Gedling & Rushcliffe, and Mid Nottinghamshire. It is understood that this position can be implemented via a Deed of Variation.

Other Options Considered

14. The other option would be for the Council to let its Membership of the Better Together Alliance expire on 31 March 2019. This would be difficult to explain to the Council's wider system partners as there are no obvious reasons for the Council to withdraw support and commitment to the Better Together Alliance. It is clear that statutory sector partners need to work together ever more closely to meet challenging national requirements, address complex and multi-faceted issues and ensure that system resources are used as effectively as possible around individuals in need of support. Without membership of the Alliance, the Council would not maintain a voting right at the Better Together Board and would not be able to claim the right to attend relevant discussions.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

15. The reasons for recommending that the Council continues being a Full Member of the Better Together Alliance for a further year are detailed in **paragraph 12**.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. 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.

Data Protection and Information Governance

17. There are no data protection or information governance implications arising from these recommendations.

Financial implications

18. There are no financial implications arising from these recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION/S:

That the Committee:

- 1) approves the Council extending its full membership of the Mid Nottinghamshire Alliance Agreement contract for a further year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020
- 2) receives a further report before the end of March 2020 with further recommendations in relation to membership of the Alliance or any other governance structure for the Integrated Care System.

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Constitutional Comments (LW 13/02/19)

19. Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (AGW 19/02/19)

20. The financial implications are contained in paragraph 18 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.

Update on progress with arrangements to integrate health and social care in Mid-Nottinghamshire – report to Adult Social Care and Health Committee on 13th March 2017

The Mid-Nottinghamshire “Better Together” Alliance Agreement Contract – report to Adult Social Care and Health Committee on 7th March 2016

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

ASCPH628 final