



26 July 2021

Agenda Item: 7

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, INTEGRATED STRATEGIC  
COMMISSIONING AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT**

**THE LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM THREE YEAR ROADMAP**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The report seeks approval to:
  - establish a Temporary Senior Commissioning Officer (Band C) post to support the delivery of the strategic priorities set out in the NHS long term plan and the Nottinghamshire three-year roadmap for people with a learning disability and/or Autism.
  - proceed with the procurement of additional capacity within the specialist Unplanned Care Service.

**Information**

2. Following the Winterbourne View scandal local authorities with their Clinical Commissioning Group partners have been working on a programme to support people with a learning disability and/or Autism to develop suitable community services to ensure there is a reduction in avoidable hospital admissions and that those living inappropriately in hospital can move into their local communities.
3. The Transforming Care Programme has subsequently become part of the NHS long term plan requirements and in Nottinghamshire the governance for what is now known as the 'Learning Disability and Autistic Spectrum Disorder Transformation Programme' is led through the Integrated Care System (ICS) Learning Disability and Autism Board.
4. National planning assumptions set out in the October 2015 'Building The Right Support' document require systems to reduce the use of long stay inpatient settings to "no more than 10-15 inpatients per million in Clinical Commissioning Group commissioned beds (assessment and treatment services) and 20-25 inpatients per million in NHS England commissioned beds". The challenge continues to be in developing sufficient community services and placements that have the right skills and expertise to support people with a learning disability and or Autism (also known as Autistic Spectrum Disorder or ASD) given

the very high acuity of some of the people previously living in hospitals who display behaviour that challenges.

5. Between March 2016 to August 2019 Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (including Bassetlaw) reduced its inpatient reliance by 43%. Despite this progress admission levels remain high and further work needs to be done to reduce the numbers living in hospital settings.
6. NHS England has requested that Transforming Care Partnerships develop and submit a three-year financial roadmap to support this work. Criteria for the roadmap were set out by NHS England to support this as follows:
  - high impact (likely to lead to significant reductions in reliance on inpatient care and meet the long-term plan commitments)
  - co-produced
  - be comprehensive
  - credible
  - be transformational
  - embed a personalised approach
  - based on local need
  - tackle health inequalities.
7. When developing the bid, partners considered current infrastructure and funding including services already commissioned using other available funding streams. The finance attached to the roadmap therefore represents only one element of the system funding.
8. The funding across the three years is £2,823,270. This will be spread over three annual allocations in increasing amounts.
9. **Appendix 1** shows an excerpt of the bid with the projects and schemes which have been approved by NHS England and will be funded through the roadmap allocation.
10. One of the projects (item 2 in the table within **Appendix 1**) is to establish a Senior Commissioning Officer post (and an equivalent in the City) to focus on the bespoke developments needed to help overcome some of the barriers currently faced by those awaiting discharge. There are a number of elements to this work including working with care and support providers, housing providers and families to develop sustainable community alternatives. This work will be undertaken on behalf of the partnership but due to the strengths that local authorities have around market shaping it was felt best to site the posts within Councils rather than within the Clinical Commissioning Groups.
11. For the County this will mean the funding of a three-year Senior Commissioning Officer post funded through the NHS England roadmap funding. The post would sit with the Strategic Commissioning team and support the programme delivery for people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Autism. This will also support the move towards greater integration with colleagues within Health.
12. Another of the projects (item 1 in the table within **Appendix 1**) is to add additional capacity to the current specialist Unplanned Care Service. There are currently three

unplanned care beds (two in the south of the County and one in the north). This service offers a short-term placement for people who need to leave their current accommodation due to a period of crisis, allowing them to receive some intensive support without escalation to a hospital admission. This additional funding will allow the procurement of an additional bed in the north of the County and will require the re-provision of the existing service in the north by way of a tender for two beds to be delivered for the next three years. The Council will lead on this exercise on behalf of the partnership. This additional capacity will help to avoid further unnecessary admissions to hospital, focusing on those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder specifically.

13. The three-year financial roadmap should support Nottinghamshire to deliver against the targets and support the Integrated Care System to develop a whole system and whole life approach to learning disability and Autism transformation. The additional funding provides the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Transforming Care Partnership an opportunity to build on previous good work but also supports the Partnership in developing a sustainable long-term financial plan that reduces reliance on non-recurrent funding.

### **Other Options Considered**

#### Senior Commissioning Officer post

14. Consideration was given to where the blockages were in this work including whether any further operational posts would help to support additional discharges. However, lack of community options which are sufficiently robust to support the high level of acuity is one of the key barriers and this work sits more obviously within the commissioning arena.
15. Trying to do this within existing resources was also considered but the trajectories which need to be met mean that additional resource is needed in this area in order to make more swift progress across both City and County and the posts can work together with providers to set expectations and find solutions.
16. Development of posts within the Clinical Commissioning Group were also considered but the provider relationships and market development skills sit more obviously within the local authorities.

#### Unplanned Care Service

17. Consideration was given to trying to extend the current Unplanned Care Service contract but there is no option to do this within the contractual parameters.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

18. The Senior Commissioning Officer post will support the delivery of the programme, ensuring appropriate community options are available.
19. The Unplanned Care Service will help to avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital.

## Statutory and Policy Implications

20. 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

21. NHS England will provide the funding to cover all elements of the bid included in **Appendix 1**. The Senior Commissioning Officer post will be recruited at a Band C. The maximum salary (for the top of pay scale) is therefore £55,738 including on costs (subject to pay award). The Unplanned Care Service will be procured within the cost envelope of £325,000 per annum for two beds.

## Human Resources Implications

22. The HR implications are outlined in **paragraphs 10 and 11** of the report. The post will initially be made available on an internal secondment basis to enable the position to be filled and the project to get underway. Where a successful candidate is appointed on secondment their role will be backfilled following the Council's recruitment procedures. Should the secondment be unsuccessful a recruitment exercise will be undertaken. The post will be recruited at a Band C grade.

## RECOMMENDATION/S

That Committee:

- 1) approves the establishment of a Temporary Senior Commissioning Officer (Band C) post for three years, funded by NHS England, to support the delivery of the strategic priorities set out in the NHS long term plan and the Nottinghamshire three year roadmap for people with a learning disability and/or Autism.
- 2) approves the procurement of two unplanned care beds in the north of the County for three years, funded by NHS England, to support the avoidance of unnecessary hospital admissions.

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**Constitutional Comments (EP 02/07/21)**

23. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

#### **Financial Comments (MM 02/07/21)**

24. The financial implications are contained within **paragraph 21** of the report. The funding for all elements will be provided by NHS England.

#### **HR Comments (SJ 21/06/21)**

25. It is intended that the post will be recruited to on a fixed term basis from the current cohort of Senior Commissioning Officers on a secondment basis for the duration as outlined in the report. The temporary vacancy created by the secondment or if the recruitment to the secondment is not successful will be recruited in line with the Authority's recruitment procedures.
26. The proposal has been shared, for information purposes, with the relevant recognised trade unions.

#### **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.

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