

Executive Report

Cabinet – 12 September 2023

Improving Hospital Discharge

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor Emily Darlington Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	Ref No 6
Wards affected	All wards

Executive summary

This report is seeking approval to commission two new services that support hospital discharge and system flow using the Councils existing Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for domiciliary homecare services.

The services are a 24-hour short term live-in care for people suffering from delirium (for up to 2 weeks post discharge) and a bridging care service (up to 1 week post discharge), to provide immediate care and support in their own homes from the point of being medically fit for discharge.

Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) and its integrated care partners have identified the need for services that will offer timely hospital discharge and reduce the number of hospital readmissions. There is also a clear view that going from full hospital support to reduced support packages of care at home (or no care at home) is impacting people's ability to fully recover.

Evidence suggests that patients who have suffered from delirium whilst in hospital, and previously lived at home prior to the admission, are best supported in their own homes. The service will be for a period of up to two weeks, to support people to resume their activities of daily living. A social work assessment will take place during this time to ensure that any ongoing care needs are met.

The bridging care service will enable the person to recover in their own home following a hospital stay. All too often discharge is delayed whilst care and support is arranged. To maximise the person's potential for independence, and help prevent any deconditioning, the new service will be put in place to coincide with the person being discharged from hospital when medically fit. The service will last for up to seven days.

A social work assessment will take place during this time to ensure that any ongoing care needs are met.

Introducing both services will strengthen MKCC’s commitment to supporting residents to live independently, enabling them to live their lives with greater choice and control to achieve their maximum potential.

Providers of domiciliary homecare services in Milton Keynes will be invited to deliver both services via the DPS. The funding available for both services for 2023/24 is £0.650m, which is available until the end of March 2024;

It is anticipated that both services will be piloted from 1 November 2023 until 31 March 2024 and if deemed to be successful in supporting residents could be extended for up to two years at the cost of £1.950m. This would be dependent on available funding and approval.

1. Proposed Decision/s

- 1.1 That use of the Council’s existing Dynamic Purchasing System for the procurement of bridging care, and 24-hour live-in services to run for a period of 1 November 2023 until 31 March 2024, be agreed.
- 1.2 That authority be delegated to the Director, Adult Services to award the contracts within the budget outlined in this report.
- 1.3 That approval to extend both services for a period of up to two years, if following evaluation and subject to funding, the pilot has proved to be successful, be granted.
- 1.4 That authority be delegated to the Director Adult Services to award the contract extensions, if applicable and within the budget outlined in this report.

2. Why is the decision needed?

- 2.1 Both services align with the Council’s Delivery Plan to help people stay independent when they leave hospital and reduce hospital re-admissions.
- 2.2 The Council has an opportunity to pilot new concepts and has an obligation to explore innovation rather than commissioning traditional homecare services.

3. Implications of the decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	y
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	y
Communication	N	Procurement	y
Energy Efficiency	Y	Workforce	N

a) Financial implications

An implementation fee of £4,032.00 is payable to Access the provider of the DPS.

The funding available for the two new services is £0.650m. For 2023/24 this is funded from the Hospital Discharge grant which is part of the Better Care Fund. It is anticipated that if the pilot is successful (and the grant remains available) then the service will be continued to be funded from the Hospital Discharge grant. The annual amount of £0.650m will remain the same unless the grant is uplifted by inflation and therefore the amount of grant for this service would also reflect this increase.

b) Legal implications

Procurement via the Adam Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) is a legitimate route to the market and shall be compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, provided that the terms and conditions of the DPS are strictly adhered to.

c) Procurement

The services will be procured via a Call-Off from the dynamic purchasing system, on an individual basis, not on a block basis. This will ensure compliance with the Council's Constitution and relevant UK and EU legislation.

d) Human Rights.

An equality impact assessment will be conducted separately.

4. Alternatives.

4.1 Do nothing.

Milton Keynes hospital readmission rates are higher than the national average and this impacts negatively on people's health and wellbeing and on hospital capacity.

This option is not recommended.

4.2. MKCC provides the service.

Providing the services inhouse is not viable. due to the significant additional cost and capacity required to deliver the services by the Council.

This option is not recommended.

4.3. Using the Home Care DPS.

Using the Home Care dynamic purchasing system to procure individual packages of bridging or short-term live in care. Domiciliary care providers on the DPS are CQC registered with a rating of good or above and must comply with both council requirements before being enrolling on the DPS. In addition, the Council has established a process of monitoring the quality of services provided and this will help to ensure that it supports the council plan.

This option is recommended.

5. Timetable for implementation

- 5.1 Once approved, implementation of the services can be undertaken with a go live date of October 2023.

List of annexes

None

List of background papers

Market Position Statement