

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 23 December 2022

Report Title

Crossroads Care Rotherham - Supporting Unpaid Carers Providing Support with Hospital Discharges Grant Funding Proposal

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Jacqueline Clark, Head of Prevention and Early Intervention

Jacqueline.clark@rotherham.gov.uk

Joanne Bell, Strategic Commissioning Manager

Joanne.bell@rotherham.gov.uk

Joanne Fellows, Commissioning Officer

Joanne.fellows@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The Department of Health and Social Care has made £500m funding available to local Councils and ICBs. £1.12m has been allocated to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to be expended by 31 March 2023 to support interventions that enable the discharge of patients from hospital.

A programme of spend was approved by the BCF Executive Group on 13th December 2022 of which up to £59,250 was to be spent on supporting unpaid carers who are supporting people who are being discharged from hospital.

This funding provides the opportunity to increase the current support available to unpaid carers in relation to hospital discharges; when the person they are caring for is being discharged from hospital. Currently, there may be a delay in carers receiving timely support, thereby delaying hospital discharge. Carers may also not be aware of the available support they could receive, which could significantly contribute towards managing the individual's recovery, and preventing readmissions to hospital.

To overcome the challenges outlined above, it is proposed that a service is provided to support unpaid carers who are supporting people who are being discharged from hospital. This service to be provided by Crossroads Care Rotherham, who are well placed to provide this specific support to unpaid carers.

This proposal will fund referral and support services for unpaid carers in the Rotherham Borough following discharge of their cared for person. The service will enable signposting (both internal and external); emotional and practical support; and a provision for emergency in-home care.

Crossroads Care Rotherham have indicated that 3 month's service from January to March 2023 could be provided if a grant of £59,250 is awarded.

Recommendations

1. That Crossroads Care Rotherham be awarded a one-off grant of £59,250 to enable them to provide a service to support unpaid carers who are supporting people who are being discharged from hospital for 3 months from January 2023.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Record of Officer Executive Decision

Background Papers

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.

Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Crossroads Care Rotherham – Supporting Unpaid Carers Providing Support with Hospital Discharges Grant Funding Proposal

1. Background

- 1.1 The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has made £500m funding available to local Councils and ICBs. £1.12m has been allocated to Rotherham Council to be expended by 31 March 2023 to:
- enable more people to be discharged to an appropriate setting, including from mental health inpatient settings, with adequate and timely social care support as required
 - prioritise those approaches that are most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds and reducing bed days lost within the funding available. D2A and provision of homecare is recognised as an effective option for discharging more people in a safe and timely manner. Residential care to meet complex health and care needs may be more appropriate for people who have been waiting to be discharged for a long time
 - boost general adult social care workforce capacity through recruitment and retention, where that will help to reduce delayed discharges. This could include, but is not limited to, measures which: increase hours worked by existing workforce; improve retention of existing workforce; provide additional or redeployed capacity from current care workers; or support local recruitment initiatives
- 1.2 A programme of spend was approved by the BCF Executive Group on 13th December 2022 of which up to £59,250 was to be spent on supporting unpaid carers who are supporting people who are being discharged from hospital, up to 31 March 2023.
- 1.3 [Hospital discharge and community support guidance](#) highlights the importance of supporting unpaid carers when facilitating hospital discharges. The individual's preferences, existing provision of care, and whether unpaid carers are willing and able to support an individual's recovery should all be considered. As part of this, unpaid carers should be offered support where appropriate.
- 1.4 This funding provides the opportunity to increase the current support available to unpaid carers in relation to hospital discharges; when the person they are caring for is being discharged from hospital. Currently, there may be a delay in carers receiving timely support, thereby delaying hospital discharge. Carers may also not be aware of the available support they could receive, which could significantly contribute towards managing the individual's recovery, and preventing readmissions to hospital. Crossroads Care Rotherham are well placed to provide this specific support to unpaid carers.
- 1.5 The specific services offered by Crossroads Care Rotherham are detailed below:

Carers Groups	4 x monthly face to face support groups which allow people to meet and form friendships with other carers in a similar situation to themselves. The sessions are based at Crossroads HQ. Carers have direct access to support from staff including Care Support Workers to look after cared-for people who attend with their carers, allowing carers a break from being 100% responsible for their cared-for person that afternoon.
Carer Activities and Events	Carers Groups include a wide range of volunteer-led activities such as crafts, music, nail painting, quizzes, knitting, laughing yoga and guest speakers providing information and support. Crossroads also organise one off events and activities – for example picnics, walks, carers steering group. Charity events e.g. Christmas Fayre, Summer Music Festival etc.
Complementary Therapies	Volunteer professional therapists offer massage and hypnotherapy treatments on an individual appointment basis plus group yoga/fitness and meditation sessions. All aim to relieve immediate stress and anxiety. The yoga and meditation sessions equip carers with ongoing strategies to use themselves to promote relaxation.
Volunteering opportunities	Crossroads support carers and cared-for people and others who feel able to volunteer to do so. This is a very positive experience for these individuals as they may have been turned away by other charities when they have applied to volunteer. Support for the volunteers requires an enhanced level of support from the Crossroads kite mark plus accredited Volunteer Programme.
Carers Information and Support Service	Crossroads provide a short-term intervention and support for unpaid carers, providing information signposting and practical support with the aim to build carers resilience. Referrals come from GP Link workers and other statutory services and carer forums. Examples of support provided includes information about being a carer, access to therapies, support and activity groups, assistance with benefits and sign posting to other relevant services and someone to talk to who understand their care needs.
Carers Training	Crossroads deliver virtual and face to face sessions on subjects such as This is Me, Herbert Protocol and suicide awareness sessions. They run 4 sessions a month with varying attendance. This enables individual carers to develop skills and knowledge and connect with other carers with similar concerns by participating in carers training sessions.
Carers grants to fulfil carer specific needs	Crossroads provide support to Carers to access individual grants of up to £300 from the Carers Trust. Recent grants have been awarded to support carers in the purchasing of household items including cookers, fridges, beds, washing machines, essential home repairs, cost associated with accessing courses and purchasing IT, software, phones, driving lessons, and short breaks away for carers.
Welfare and Befriending Service	This volunteer-led service includes both home visiting and telephone support and provides connections to combat social isolation among carers.

Counselling services for carers	Provided in partnership with MIND to help carers cope better with the pressures of their caring responsibilities.
---------------------------------	---

1.6 Crossroads Care Rotherham have submitted a proposal to utilise the fund to provide additional carer support and are committed to employing an additional dedicated Information and Support Officer (30 hrs a week), Admin support (30 hrs a week) and the following:

Services to support Carers following hospital discharge:

- Carers information and support service; emotional support, welfare, benefits (working in collaboration with other VCS organisations)
- Carers training; This is Me and Herbert protocol
- Carers grants to fulfil carer specific need; access to white goods, IT
- Welfare and befriending; face to face, teams and telephone
- Counselling services for carers; Mind CBT sessions
- Emergency care and support
- Volunteer expenses

Various essential back-office cost have been identified.

1.7 This proposal also supports The Borough that Cares Strategic Framework 2022-25 to *‘ensure carers can live well, be active and have fulfilled lives’*.

2. Key Issues

2.1 DHSC funding has been made available to be utilised within a small window, to meet specific criteria, by 31 March 2023.

2.2 Crossroads Care Rotherham’s Carers Information and Support Service is currently working to capacity. This proposal would increase the current capacity to provide additional, focused support for unpaid carers who are supporting people who are being discharged from hospital.

2.3 The proposed grant funding amount of £59,250 would enable a dedicated service to be put in place for 3 months, delivering support to unpaid carers following hospital discharge of their cared for person.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Option 1** – to go out to tender for a service to provide support to unpaid carers who are supporting people who are being discharged from hospital. The services are required urgently due to the short notice of the funding. As such, compliance with a competitive process cannot be achieved.

3.2 **Option 2 (recommended)** – to provide a one-off grant of £59,250 to Crossroads Care Rotherham to provide the service for a 3 month period.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 NHS Rotherham Integrated Discharge Team, the Council's Adult Care Carer's Lead and the Provider have been consulted on the proposal. A communication plan to support referrals to the service is in development.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Crossroads Care Rotherham has indicated that resources can be put into place to enable the service to commence from January 2023.
- 5.2 Work will commence immediately to establish a communication plan and referral process.
- 5.3 A Grant Agreement will be agreed and issued, and the Council's Adult Care Commissioning Team will monitor the expected outcomes and outputs.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 6.1 A programme of spend was approved by the BCF Executive Group on 13th December 2022 of which up to £59,250 was to be spent on supporting unpaid carers who are supporting people who are being discharged from hospital.

This will be funded by the Adult Hospital Discharge Fund.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 If this arrangement is treated as a grant (rather than as a contract for services) the Council would lose the right to sue the recipient for breach of contract for non-performance. The Council's only option if the recipient does not perform its contractual obligations is to discontinue further payments of the grant. If the Council wishes to retain the right to sue the recipient for breach of contract for non-performance, then this should be a contract for services rather than a grant arrangement.
- 7.2 Legal Services has given the commissioners a template grant agreement to use for this arrangement. Commissioners and Legal Services will work together to ensure the grant agreement is properly completed.
- 7.3 Consideration has been given to whether this grant is an unlawful subsidy. This grant is unlikely to be a subsidy because it does not confer any economic advantage over any economic actor (with the recipient not being an 'economic actor' for these purposes). Even if the grant were considered a

subsidy, it is very likely to meet the Common Principles for the purposes of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 None for the Council

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 There are circa 30,000 unpaid carers in Rotherham. There are circa 6262 known to the Council and of these 3164 are over 65 years of age.

9.2 This recommendation would help to increase the support available to vulnerable adults and their natural forms of support (unpaid carer stress). Any reduction in informal support may increase the demands on formal provision and Adult Care and Integrations assessment services.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 Section 13 of the Equality Act 2010 protect carers from direct discrimination or harassment because of their caring responsibilities as a result of being associated with someone who is protected by the law because of their age or disability.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 This proposal has no impact on emissions.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. Non provision of this service could lead to an increased demand on partner organisations for both advice and support and for more expensive formal care services should an unpaid carer be no longer able to fulfil their caring role.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Risks

The DHSC funding is to be expended by 31 March 2023. Any delays to allocating the funding and the mobilising of services will impact on the number of beneficiaries.

13.2 Mitigation

Crossroads Care Rotherham advise that they are able to mobilise resources as soon as funding is confirmed.

Commissioners will set and monitor outcomes to ensure services delivered meet DHSC funding criteria.

14. Accountable Officers

Nathan Atkinson – Assistant Director, Strategic Commissioning

Report Author:

Jacqueline Clark, Head of Prevention and Early Intervention

Jacqueline.clark@rotherham.gov.uk

Joanne Bell, Strategic Commissioning Manager

Joanne.bell@rotherham.gov.uk

Joanne Fellows, Commissioning Officer

Joanne.fellows@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).