

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET

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| 1 | Meeting: | Cabinet |
| 2 | Date: | 4th September, 2013 |
| 3 | Title: | Response to Scrutiny Review of Continuing Healthcare |
| 4 | Directorate: | Neighbourhoods and Adult Services |

5 Summary

Continuing Health Care (CHC) relates to NHS funding which is allocated to people whose health care needs meets a nationally agreed threshold. Following concerns that citizens in Rotherham were not being served well due to CHC spend being lower than nearby and statistical neighbours; a Review of Continuing Health Care was led by the Joint Health and Improving Lives Select Commissions in 2012. A number of recommendations were made which it is intended will improve the experience of citizens and ensure that a fairer share of CHC funding is received within Rotherham.

Following receipt of the report, a senior management working group consisting of both RMBC and NHSR staff agreed a set of actions to ensure effective multi disciplinary working and deliver better outcomes for customers.

CHC and social care assessments are completed by health and social care staff presently or recently involved in assessing, reviewing, treating and supporting the customer. A better working relationship exists and understanding of each professionals role in participating in a multi disciplinary assessment and completing the Decision Support Tool (DST).

6 Recommendations

- **This report to be submitted to Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Cabinet meetings prior to receipt at September's Health and Wellbeing Board.**

7 Proposals and Details

- 7.1 The recommendations of the Joint Select Commissions have been addressed through joint work between NHS Rotherham and RMBC. Good progress has been made in addressing the recommendations, as can be seen from the attached plan. Unfortunately significant changes in the NHS, including the transfer of responsibilities to the Clinical Commissioning Group and the local National Commissioning Board have resulted in some delays in agreeing the devised joint protocol, which reflects the National guidance for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS Funded Nursing Care and which addresses local issues identified by the Select Commission. This piece of work has commenced following the restructure and the move of CHC team over to CCG/Commissioning Support Unit, along with the actions required to drive Personalisation of services in Rotherham forward across Health and Social Services.
- 7.2 It has been agreed that training will be delivered jointly by CHC/LA leads and rolled out across hospital, community health and social care teams. As recommended, examples of local case studies, with examples of completed and anonymised Decision Support Tools will be used, ensuring that staff can learn from the experience of Rotherham customers.
- 7.3 With regards to the joint protocol, it has been drafted and work will commence with continuing healthcare manager/staff and RMBC CHC champions now CHC lead is in post. The protocol will include how to resolve disputes, and written guidance for staff will be produced to ensure consistency and compliance once it has been issued.
- 7.4 The RMBC/CHC Senior Management group, Personalisation Workstream will continue to meet and consider budget issues and to develop cost effective delivery of personal health budgets by 1st April 2014 based on a pilot project implemented from 1st April 2013.
- 7.5 Improved engagement has been achieved through the attendance at CHC panels. It is now routine that RMBC CHC Champions attend ratification panel meetings as part of the Multi Disciplinary Team and implement joint actions. CHC Champions ensure that issues are addressed in a timely manner.

8 Finance

- 8.1 The latest Yorkshire and Humberside CHC benchmarking information for the quarter ending 31 December 2012, Rotherham is ranked 7th out of 15 in terms of the number of people receiving CHC funding. In terms of actual expenditure Rotherham is ranked 10th and therefore still below the average spend per person within the region.

9 Risks and Uncertainties

9.1 The following actions have been taken forward by RMBC/CHC strategic leads to implement Scrutiny's recommendations and minimise risk to the Council

9.1.1 Monthly meetings are held between strategic leads to consider budget issues, address joint protocols, transitions between funding streams and services etc.

9.1.2 Operational leads continue to meet weekly to address day to day issues and improve communication.

9.1.3 Written protocols and joint training will re commence now CHC Leads are in post and will address the remaining Scrutiny recommendations.

10 Background Papers and Consultation

Review of Continuing Health Care in Rotherham – Joint Report of the Health and Improving lives Select Commissions

National Framework for Continuing Health Care – Department of Health

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