

Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board

22 September 2021

Hospital Discharge Funding

For Review and Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr L Miller, Adult Social Care and Health

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: V Broadhurst, Interim Executive Director of People - Adults

Report Author: Lesley Hutchinson and Steve Veevers

Title: Corporate Director for Adult Commissioning and Corporate Director for Adult Operations

Tel:

Email: Lesley.hutchinson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk;
steve.veevers@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the delegation previously granted by the Board at its meeting on 23rd June 2021 be extended to enable the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health, after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, to agree Dorset Integrated Care System funding for the additional Hospital Discharge Programme (HDP).

Reason for Recommendation:

As stated in the report to the Board in June 2021 national funding has been made available to support the Hospital Discharge Programme during 2020/21 and has been extended (albeit with revised criteria) for the period April to September 2021. National guidance was issued that requested Health and Well-Being Boards be involved in making decisions on local budgets for this programme. Spend against funding has yet to be reconciled as we are not at the

end of the period consequently the final position in relation to local budgets it yet to be confirmed. It is expected this reconciliation will be completed by October 2021.

1. Executive Summary

At the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in June 2021 the Council and CCG committed to bring a full report on HDP funding to the next Board – the timescale for the Dorset Board is earlier than originally thought and different to that of BCPs Health and Wellbeing Board who meet in October 2021. The reconciliation of the funding is not available until the end of quarter two and therefore can not be shared at this meeting.

On 6th September the Government confirmed via press release its extension of the HDP funding for a further six months (October 2021 to March 2022) and committed an additional £478 million to be shared nationally. As yet the details for the application of this and the amount for Dorset are not provided. This funding is part of an extra £5.4 billion the Government has committed over the next six months to support the response to Covid-19 and tackle waiting lists.

[Additional £5.4 billion for NHS COVID-19 response over next 6 months - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-54-billion-for-nhs-covid-19-response-over-next-6-months)

The Pan Dorset Home First Board continues to review options and service models to help best meet the significant challenge it faces in supporting people with a swift and safe discharge from hospital. There remains significant financial concerns and workforce pressures despite the additional funding being made available. The Board have engaged Impower as a strategic provider to help make the changes needed to improve our position.

2. Financial Implications

We await the reconciliation of 2021/22 funding in order to present the Board with the financial position in relation to the £8.4 million Government funding - £4.2million of which is for activity in Dorset Council area.

Confirmation of additional funding for October 2021 to March 2022 has been given however we await the value of this.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

Dorset reports a similar picture to many other areas in the South West and nationally in relation to the challenges facing people with health and social care needs and the availability of provision to support the needs. Some South West authorities are on high alert and have Government help in place to support the management of Covid-19 numbers and service response.

One of the highest risks in Dorset is the challenge brought about by lack of available home care and therapy. The lack of availability of these two services reduces our ability to discharge people swiftly and to help optimise their ability to become more independent. Dorset like other areas has a challenged workforce with staff shortages which are brought about for a variety of reasons.

4. Climate implications

All partner agencies are mindful in their strategic and operational planning of the commitments, which they have taken on to address the impact of climate change.

5. Other Implications

Increasing Covid-19 numbers are further impacting on the available workforce, in Dorset we are starting to see a further increase in the number of providers (primarily care homes) closed to admissions due to outbreaks. This is also impacting the capacity to discharge people from hospital safely and in a timely way.

6. Risk Assessment

As stated in the previous report the Hospital Discharge Programme was initiated in March 2020 – its purpose was to respond to high demand for care and particularly hospital discharges. Dorset is significantly challenged in meeting the current demand; when comparing the number of people discharged from hospital over the age of 65 requiring a Care Act assessments in 2019/20 to 2020/21 we saw a 224% rise and this trend has continued into 2021/22.

The risk is therefore not only financial but also to the wellbeing of individuals. Dorset Council rate this as high risk and like health partners are reporting into fortnightly system resilience meetings on the lack of availability of care and people waiting for services and the risk associated with this.

As stated above Impower have been engaged to help work through plans to better manage our position.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

It is important that all partners ensure that the individual needs and rights of every person receiving treatment, care and support are respected, including people with protected characteristics so the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010 are met by all partners.

8. Appendices

N/A

9. Background Papers

See report to Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2021 ([Report](#))