

Theme and Overview: 10. Demand Management: Promoting Independence for People with Learning Disabilities

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Overview of Proposal:

The 2012/13 "Big Conversation" with the Learning Disabilities community formed the basis of the current Learning Disabilities Strategy 'six big aims' and the overarching priority outcomes. We now have well developed user groups that replace one off discussion with regular debate, and understanding of the financial challenge is well understood. Co-producing and designing services that meet outcomes in the context of the current financial challenge will need further work, and the People's Parliament will be engaged during December 2016 so we can discuss their ideas with carers about transformation in Learning Disabilities services.

Supporting those who are most vulnerable in our society is a priority as well as a statutory duty for this Council. The Learning Disabilities budget for 2016/17 is a net budget of £51.5m. We acknowledge that there is work to be done in shaping the Learning Disabilities market and changing the way we support people by working closely with service users, carers, partners and providers. This is reflected in the current work programmes and wish for many service users to be more independent.

The current adult social work services and related Care Act responsibilities are delivered by Worcestershire Health and Care Trust on behalf of the Council. This arrangement commenced in 2014 and was incorporated into the existing section 75 Partnership agreement with the Trust for mental health services. Two years on, this is the appropriate time to review the effectiveness of these arrangements working closely with partners and service user groups.

There is a recently established Funding Panel for high cost packages which is chaired by the Trust, and includes Council commissioning unit membership, and this has introduced greater challenge into the system.

Identifying further savings and transformational change:

In order to consider the potential for further savings, we have considered how we compare with other local authorities in terms of outcomes that we deliver for service users, numbers supported and cost.

These have shown that we compare favourably with our family comparators, in terms of numbers of people supported, living independently. However, the unit cost of residential and nursing care still requires further challenge. This will be addressed through the long term project of increasing the use of supported living and potentially setting banding rates.

Additional savings could be achieved through reviewing current work programmes, recommissioning and introduction of fixed banded rates for residential care, a review of the joint arrangements with the Health and Care Trust, and continuing the movement of individuals from residential into supported living accommodation.

Putting the aspiration of individuals to be able to live more independently at the heart of all we do will not only improve wellbeing but will also have a positive effect on our ability to deliver.

The proposals are:

- a) Reviewing the effectiveness of the joint working arrangements, ensuring we control cost – completed by 31 March 2017
- b) Ensuring opportunities from the New Technology in Care project are applied specifically to Learning Disabilities
- c) Seek a long term and joint resolution to determine responsibility for a range of pressures including people with complex needs, section 117 and Continuing Health Care
- d) Continue to work with Learning Disabilities residential service users and carers to find appropriate Supported Living units – subject to the impact of the Housing Cap if introduced in 2018. There are currently 259 people with learning disabilities who live in Supported Living units and we want to extend this opportunity for independent living to more people.
- e) Change the pattern of demand from children's services by working with families earlier, and ensure planning for adulthood has a focus on enabling independence and wellbeing.
- f) Working with family carers to provide financial planning to prevent their adult children from entering residential care once the family carer is no longer able to provide care.

What additional savings/income is targeted and when is this expected to be delivered?

Budget				
2016/17	Gross Budget £56.3m, Net budget of £51.5m			
Savings				
Initiative	2017/18 £,000	2018/19 £,000	2019/20 £,000	Post 2020 £,000
Proposed Additional Savings Target		2000		
Total		2000		

What are the risks, their impact and mitigations?

#	There is a risk that.....	Which could (impact).....	Which will be mitigated by....
1	Providers, service users and carers may be slow to embrace change	Prevent or delay changes and savings	Early active engagement and co-production with providers, service users and carers
2	Transforming Care (post-Winterbourne View programme) will potentially result in cost pressures to Council and CCGs if appropriate transfer of funding is not received from NHSE	Result in cost pressure to the Council of £1.2m as minimum over next 3 years	Representations made to NHS England to ensure funding is transferred and cost pressures have been raised at regional and national level
3	Resolution not found to complex needs, section 117 and CHC	Result in significant cost pressure	Alternative savings will be identified by working closely with health partners and harnessing opportunities of STP