

BARNSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

Report of the
Executive Director (People) to
Cabinet on
20th February 2019

Proposed Use Of The Adult Social Care Winter Pressures Funding (2018–19)

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval for the proposed use of the additional adult social care funding provided by the Government, as part of the Autumn Statement to help address anticipated pressures over the winter period.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Cabinet notes the winter pressures funding for the Borough, during 2018/19 and agrees to its proposed use as indicated in Paragraph 4.4 of this report.**

3.0 Introduction / Background

3.1 Funding Objectives and Conditions

- 3.2 On 2nd October 2018 as part of the Autumn Statement, the Government announced additional funding for councils of £240m to help alleviate winter pressures on the NHS, getting patients home quicker and freeing up hospital beds across the country. The additional funding, which has been made available in 2018/19, is intended to reduce the number of patients that are medically ready to leave hospital but are delayed because they are waiting for adult social care services. It is expected that the funding to be used by councils would focus on:

- Helping to reduce extended lengths of stay in hospital and delayed transfer of care.
- Improving weekend discharge arrangements so that patients are assessed and discharged earlier;
- Speeding up the process of assessing and agreeing what type of social care is needed for patients in hospital.

- 3.3 Allocations to individual councils have been based on the Relative Needs Formula (RNF), with Barnsley allocated **£1.238M** for 2018-19. The funding is in addition to the Council's planned spending on adult social care, and is expected to be directed towards reducing the identified challenges the NHS faces during winter.

- 3.4 In recognition of the need to provide continuity and sustainability of funding, the Government has confirmed (in the 2018 autumn budget) a further £240m for the same purposes in 2019-20. Barnsley's allocation for 2019-20, as confirmed, is £1.2m.
- 3.3 The funding will be paid as a specific grant directly to councils, and may be used for the purposes of supporting the local health and social care system to manage pressures on the NHS between November 2018 and March 2019. It is expected that the funding would be used to fund adult social care interventions and support, which help people to be discharged from hospital, who would otherwise be delayed.
- 3.4 Specifically, the following conditions apply:
- Use the funding in addition to planned spend on adult social care services in 2018-19;
 - Develop a plan for spending the funding to achieve the purposes of the grant; and
 - Comply with such reporting as required, including indication of how the funding will be spent and confirmation that plans have been discussed with local NHS partners, including local acute hospital trusts.

4.0. Proposed Use of the Funding

- 4.1 The adopted approach is that the funding is one-off / non-recurrent (although a similar amount has been confirmed for 2019/20). The funding is intended to support councils to focus / invest in adult social care services to help manage demand pressures on the NHS over the winter, particularly in relation to discharging people out of hospital through the provision of social care packages. As a result of this, any use of the funding in terms of specific investments would have to be on a one-off and non-recurrent basis (and time limited in nature).
- 4.2 Each council is expected to decide on the most effective way to spend the funding to achieve the grant conditions, taking into consideration local health and social care needs, including local market conditions.
- 4.3 In compliance with the grant conditions, discussions on the proposed use of the funding have taken place with the Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group and other health partners in Barnsley, including Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT). The proposed plan has also been reported to the Accident and Emergency Delivery Board.
- 4.4 The following details the proposed use (and impact) of the £1.238 million for winter pressures upon which Cabinet's approval is sought:

1. Increasing social work assessment capacity (£374k)

To ensure that hospital discharge cases continue to be prioritised and to speed hospital discharge during the winter period, it is proposed to increase the social work capacity in the hospital social work team, including extending opening hours; locality teams and in the Care Home Review team.

2. Additional hospital weekend management cover (£33k)

This proposal is to ensure there is adequate / proper management cover for the hospital social work team over the weekend and extended hours. This would ensure there is one senior manager on call.

3. Increased Occupational Therapy capacity (£52k)

It is proposed to increase capacity within the Occupational Therapy Team and within the SWYPFT equipment and adaptation team to ensure hospital discharge cases are prioritised.

4. Additional Reablement capacity (£110k)

It is proposed to fund increased Reablement support (including at weekends) to speed hospital discharge and prevent re-admission. Funding is also intended to increase capacity of the Service to act as provider of last resort in cases where independent sector home care providers are unable to pick up care packages. The allocated funding equates to an additional 80 hours per week support.

5. Additional social care packages (£637k)

It is proposed to secure and make provision for extra home care and residential care packages in anticipation of increased demand during the winter period. This would include establishing, through a procurement process, additional homecare providers to pick up care packages that the Support To Live At Home (STLAH) providers cannot accommodate. In addition, the option to secure additional homecare capacity through the temporary payment of enhanced rates (non-recurrent / outside the framework contracts) and/or other staff incentives would be explored.

6. Brokerage capacity (£32k)

It is proposed to fund additional capacity within the Adult Joint Commissioning Unit to broker and manage the placement of homecare packages with new providers (outside the existing STLAH framework).

4.5 The funding requirements for the above proposals have been quantified based on a full year basis; however the impact/additionality would be reported to the Government for the winter period only i.e. November 2018 to March 2019. Whilst the funding is required to be utilised in 2018-19, it is assumed that any balance of funding at the end of March 2019 can be carried forward into the following financial year.

5.0. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The Council has been allocated grant funding of **£1.238m** for adult social care to help alleviate pressures on the NHS over the winter months. The funding is required to be used to fund interventions which support people to leave hospital quicker, with the appropriate social care support in place and to promote people's independence.
- 5.2 The grant conditions placed on the council are as follows:
- the funding to be used to provide support over the winter months to March 2019;
 - the council to develop a plan for spending the grant and for this to be discussed with local NHS partners;
 - comply with any reporting requirements as specified
- 5.3 The spending plan for the use of the funding is outlined in paragraph 4.4. These have been quantified and put forward on a non-recurrent basis, although additional funding has been confirmed for 2019/20. Spend proposals to increase staffing capacity or cover would be implemented through the use of temporary contracts. Likewise incentives agreed with local homecare providers to boost capacity in the care market would be implemented outside the standard framework contract and would only apply to the winter period.
- 5.4 There is the risk of funding slippage and cost pressures not materialising as anticipated. Whilst there is no specific claw back condition, it is currently assumed that unspent funding would be carried forward into the following year.

6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 Financial risks are identified and outlined in Paragraphs 5.3 and 5.4.

7.0 List of Appendices

- 7.1 There are no appendices to this report.

8.0 Details of Background Papers

- 8.1 If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please e-mail governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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