

Adult Care Services Report for Health in Dacorum Meeting of 12th June 2019

The current contracts for Lead Provider Support at Home, SAH (homecare) and Specialist Care at Home, SCAH are due to end in March 2020. SCAH provides up to four weeks of non-chargeable enabling care, to support people leaving hospital and prevent avoidable hospital admissions. Plans to commission a new service are underway, with the procurement process to start in July 2019.

The intention is to deliver more flexible, integrated support to maximise independence and wellbeing.

Provider failures have occurred and the transition of clients between SCAH and SAH is challenging due to a lack of mainstream capacity. It is intended to introduce a single contract for Strategic Lead Provider – Reablement and Support at Home to provide both in each area of the County. The County Council would aim to limit each provider to a maximum of three areas.

The aims are to simplify the transition and improve flow between the services, freeing up capacity and giving Strategic Lead Providers greater ability to forward plan and manage staff numbers, whilst providing a flexible service to meet the changing needs of an individual.

In January 2019, NHS England released the NHS Long Term Plan, a long and complex series of commitments for the NHS. It does not cover the issues of funding for Public Health and Social Care. It is anticipated that these will be addressed by the Government's Spending Review, which is expected in Autumn 2019. However it does provide an opportunity to further integrate Health and Social Care budgets (currently done through the Better Care Fund) where this can be locally agreed. The plan describes a number of options to achieve this:

Voluntary budget pooling of between a council and CCG

Individual service user budget pooling

The Salford model with the local authority asking the NHS to oversee a pooled budget for all adult health and social care services

The CCG and local authority ask NHS England to designate the council chief executive or director of adult social care as the CCG accountable officer

Options for social care and health integration and partnership working are anticipated to be explored further in the forthcoming Green Paper on adult social care.

In the Adult Social Care performance Monitor Quarter 3 2019/19, West Herts Hospitals Trust reported the highest percentages of delayed discharges of all the trusts used by Herts. CCGS, both for total delays and social care delays. The main reason was patients waiting for homecare.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest