

**Meeting of the Executive Members for
Housing and Adult Social Services and
Advisory Panel**

5th June 2006

Report of the Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

Pilot Implementation of the revised Continuing Care Policy

Summary

1. This report requests the Executive Member to endorse an extension of the 6 month trial of the North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Strategic Health Authority revised Continuing Health and Social Care Policy and Assessment Tool.

It recommends that the outcomes of the trial and the revised national policy guidance will need to be considered prior to full implementation of revised policy.

Background

2. The pilot of the revised policy was approved for implementation by the Executive Member on the 10th November. The pilot was to have run until May 2006 before being evaluated for longer term application..
3. Since the pilot was approved there has been significant developments at a national level with far reaching implications. These include:
 - Reports by the Health Service Ombudsman and the Health Select Committee. In response to these the DOH have been preparing a national approach to fully funded continuing care and the closely related policy area of funded nursing care.
 - More recently the Grogan Judgement has meant that detailed guidance has been issued to all health and local authorities to ensure that SHA eligibility criteria are based on a test or approach which identifies whether an individuals primary need is a health need or not. This has already led to changes in the local draft policy to make it "Grogan compliant.
 - A National Framework for continuing care and funded nursing care is to be published for a 3 month public consultation. This means that any implementation of such a framework will not occur before the autumn.

4. In anticipation of Strategic Health Authority merger, advice has been sought as to the need to produce a single policy for Yorkshire & Humber in advance of the adoption of a National approach. The advice from the Department of Health is that the new Strategic Health Authority could continue to operate existing policies for a few months. The local Joint Executive, (that involves CYC representation) overseeing the implementation of the draft policy has agreed that, in the circumstances and subject to approval within its constituent organisations, it would be appropriate to continue with the pilot for a further six months. At the end of the extended period it is anticipated there will be the national framework available as well as sound information on the effectiveness of the draft policy.
5. The objectives for the extended period remain as they were for the initial pilot and as reported in November:
 - Convergence with national work ,through the anticipated framework;
 - Strengthening partnership and inter-professional working;
 - Implementation alongside audit to improve practice and consistent application of the eligibility criteria.
 - The continued work of the Joint Executive Policy Development Group and the Analysis and Audit Group.
 - Underpinning the programme of implementation with a training and development approach, which needs to be effectively planned and introduced.
 - Finalising the policy and legal position for formal agreement between all authorities involved..

Consultation

6. This proposal has been agreed by the representatives of the signatory organisations.

Options

7. There are two options. The first is to cease the pilot and revert to the previous policy. The second is to continue the pilot.

Analysis

8. The first option is undeliverable as a continuing care policy can only be implemented in partnership and the reason the original policy was replaced with the pilot was due to the fact that it did not comply fully with legal guidance.

- 9 The preferred option is that the Executive Member supports the recommendation to continue the pilot period until November 2006 or before if the national framework is available and agreed for implementation at the local level.

Corporate Objectives

- 10 The corporate objectives that are met by the continuing care policy relate to the provision of services through effective partnership and the improvement to the health and well-being of the community.

Implications

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- **Financial**

In 2005/06 the Council received £500,000 income from continuing care awards to individual customers. Any changes to policy will include the financial implications in any evaluation that is undertaken.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

There are no human resource implications other than the continued commitment to training City of York staff to implement the policy during the pilot period.

- **Equalities**

The continuing care policy that is being piloted is one that is applied to all people assessed as in need of continuing health care.

- **Legal**

As the policy has been developed, it has been subject to continual independent legal advice which has been shared with the councils legal services. This will be finalised before the policy is formally presented for adoption in 2006.

- **Crime and Disorder**

There are no Crime and disorder implications

- **Information Technology (IT)**

There are no information technology implications

- **Property /Other**

There are no property or other implications

Risk Management

- 12 The risks to the local authority associated with the pilot continuing care policy are managed through an interagency Executive Group and an interagency operational group.

Recommendations

- 13 It is recommended that the Executive Member for Adult Social Services support the proposal that the council should extend the revised Continuing Care Policy (including the assessment tool) for a further pilot 6 month period, unless the national position is established or a regional strategic health authority policy is proposed. If either of the latter two are achieved within the extension period, a report will be brought to the Executive Member.

Reason:

To ensure that the current policy remains in place until it is superseded by national guidance.

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Report Approved Date 22.05.06

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

All relevant background papers must be listed here.

Executive Member Advisory Panel Minutes 10 November 2005, Paragraph 39