

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 14 March 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Adult Social Services

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education & Social Care

SUBJECT: Halton Borough Council and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group : Joint Working Agreement

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The current Joint Working Agreement (JWA) between Halton Borough Council (HBC) and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CGC) took effect on 1st April 2016 and is due to expire 31st March 2019.

This report proposes an extension to the current JWA to allow for a full review of the agreement to be undertaken.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board**

- 1) **note the contents of the report; and**
- 2) **consider and agree to a six month extension of the current Joint Working Agreement.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 During 2018/19 work has taken place to update the JWA ready for the development of a new JWA from 1st April 2019. However a number of issues have meant that we have not been able to finalise the necessary revisions.

The main issues that have yet been unable to be resolved are linked to the JWA's associated pooled budget arrangements, including associated financial contributions and dealing with current levels of overspend.

The current JWA is set to expire on the 31st March 2019 and by now, as previously done, work would have already commenced on the development of a new agreement.

As some of the issues in relation to the JWA have been associated with the pooled budget arrangements and current financial situation, the entering into a new 3 year arrangement by both parties will somewhat be influenced by the end of year financial projection/position.

As this won't accurately be known until the end of the financial year, the Executive Board are asked to agree to extending the current JWA for a 6 month period, on the

same basis as the current JWA.

This extension would then allow sufficient time for a full review of the JWA to be undertaken, assess the future of joint working arrangements between both parties and also provide sufficient time to ensure any necessary changes to the working arrangements are implemented.

The Executive Partnership Board is supportive of this extension and NHS Halton CCG will ensure that this extension is approved via their own governance arrangements.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 As part of the JWA, HBC and NHS Halton CCG entered into a Pooled Budget arrangement which contains the expenditure on delivering care and support services for adults with complex needs. The Pooled Budget also includes the Better Care Fund.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Those people who are in receipt of long term care whether that is funding from Health or Social Care are those people in our communities with some of the most clinically complex and severe on going needs, so it is essential we have effective mechanisms in place to ensure that people we provide services to receive appropriate outcomes.

The integrated system and pooled budget arrangements developed ensures that the resources available to both Health and Social Care are effectively used in the delivery of personalised, responsive and holistic care to those who are most in need.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The JWA complies with the financial standing orders of HBC and NHS Halton CCG and the regulatory and monitoring arrangements contained within.

7.2 If no extension is agreed, then the JWA and associated pooled budget arrangements would cease on 31st March 2019 and work would need to be undertaken, at pace, to ensure that the necessary changes were made to associated operational systems and processes such as the financial systems which support the joint working arrangements.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None associated with this report.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

9.1 As outlined in paragraph 3.1, the extension of 6 months would allow HBC and NHS Halton CCG to undertake a full review of the current JWA and associated pooled budget arrangements

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 10.1 1. Allow the JWA to cease.
2. Enter into a new 3 year agreement, based on current arrangements.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 The extension to the JWA would take effect from 1st April 2019.

12.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Joint Working Agreement between HBC and NHS Halton CCG 1.4.16 – 31.3.19	Copy available via Email	Sue Wallace Bonner Susan.Wallace-Bonner@halton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 511 8825