

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Adults & Community  
**SUBJECT:** NHS support for Social Care  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To inform Executive Board of recent announcements about NHS support for Social Care.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) **The report be noted;**
- ii) **On the basis of the National Guidance, Executive Board approve that the Adults and Communities Directorate enter into a partnership agreement with NHS Halton and St Helens on behalf of Halton Borough Council.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010, the Department of Health announced that an additional £70m would be allocated to PCTs for spending in 2010/2011 on services to promote better re-ablement services for patients upon discharge from hospital. The PCTs were requested to work in partnership with Local Authorities, community services and Acute Trust partners to develop plans on the best way to use this funding, to facilitate seamless care for patients on discharge from hospital and to prevent avoidable hospital readmissions. A proportion of the funding should be used to develop current re-ablement capacity in the community and the PCT was allocated £488,000 for Halton and St. Helens.

3.2 The PCT submitted proposals to the Strategic Health Authority and agreed to fund short term services to support winter pressures. The funding provided additional flexibility and capacity required to speed up supported discharge and provide necessary post discharge rehabilitation and re-ablement to more people. For Halton this funding provided additional Intermediate Care Beds and Community Re-ablement.

3.3 The spending review and 2011/12 NHS operating framework announced further funding to PCTs in financial years 2011/12 and

2012/13 to develop local reablement services in the context of the post discharge support plans submitted to the Strategic Health Authority this December. This funding totals £150m in 2011/12 and £300m in 2012/13, as well as savings from changes to National Hospital tariffs and is contained within recurrent PCT baseline allocations. A working group has been established by the PCT, which includes all partners to develop and the Executive Board will receive a further report during 2011 which outlines how this funding will be committed.

3.4 In addition, on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011, the Department of Health announced a further allocation of £162m to PCTs for immediate spending on social care services that benefit the NHS but which must be committed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. This funding stream was focussed on a wider range of Local Authority funded social care services, and transferred to Local Authorities to invest in Social Care services to benefit health, and improve overall health gain. Transfers of funding are to be made via an agreement under Section 256 of the 2006 NHS Act. The allocation for Halton Council is £427,000. Due to the short notice on this allocation, a meeting was arranged by the PCT to agree spend for this financial year. The details of the agreed allocation of funding, are incorporated in the Partnership agreement.

3.5 The 2011/12 NHS operating framework also provided details of separate, non-recurrent PCT allocations for social care totalling £648m in 2011/12 and £622m in 2012/13. This funding which has been allocated to PCTs, and which they will need to transfer to Local Authorities to invest in social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain. Transfers will need to be made via an agreement under section 256 of the 2006 NHS Act. The allocation for Halton is £1,709m 2011/12 and £1,645m 2012/13.

3.6 The governance arrangements for this allocation will remain with the PCT, however it is proposed this fund is managed through the established partnership board, the Executive Commissioning Board for Intermediate Care. The Intermediate Care Executive Commissioning Board reports to the Intermediate Care partnership Board and the Portfolio Holder for Health is the Chair of the Partnership Board.

3.7 The partnership agreement, including funding allocation, is attached at Appendix 1 and it is recommended that this be approved. The funding allocation is in line with the Department Of Health Criteria and Halton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The proposals identified within the Partnership Agreement are in line with the existing Council and Partnership commissioning strategies.

## 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 It is a priority for the Local Authority to ensure that there is an equitable allocation of funding for the residents of Halton, to facilitate maximum health gain. The governance arrangements need to be clear and transparent within a framework of an effective partnership.

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

### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Children's transition will continue to be a priority.

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

Develop the skills of the staff teams to enhance their career prospects, and improve basic literacy and technological skills. The care sector is a key area of growth within the Halton economy over the next few years. Skills and learning programmes developed here will be used to strengthen the opportunities available to the whole health and social care sector.

### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

To improve the capacity, quality and range of social care services including short-term re-ablement ensuring that the services provided are relevant to the health, social care and cultural needs of the local population and support people to remain as independent as practicable through a rehabilitative and enabling approach to care delivery.

### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The additional funding available will support a safe and effective discharge from hospital for residents of Halton. Promote the protection and dignity of vulnerable adults through awareness raising, training for staff and participation in strategy meetings and investigations as appropriate.

### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 Schemes will have exit strategies and a limited number of schemes will have to employ staff on fixed term contracts to avoid long term commitments to partners.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 No adverse impact and positively promotes social inclusion.

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

None under the meaning of the Act