

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 18th January 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adult Services

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Adult Social Care (ASC) Discharge Fund

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with the ASC Discharge Fund Plan 2022/23, for information, following its submission on 16th December 2022.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED: That the Board:

(1) Note the contents of the report and associated appendix.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Delays to discharging people from hospital when they are fit to leave continues to be a significant national issue and as such funding has been allocated to local areas in order to try and achieve the maximum reduction in delayed discharges over the winter period.
- 3.2 Although the national fund was announced on 22nd September 2022, Local Authority allocations weren't notified to areas until 18th November 2022. The Board should note that 40% of the allocations to local areas have been distributed directly to local authorities, based on the adult social care relative needs formula (RNF), whilst 60% of the funding has been distributed to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), targeted at those areas experiencing the greatest discharge delays, with all the available funding being expected to be pooled into local area Better Care Funds.
- 3.3 The funding is being provided in 2 tranches – the first (40%) in December 2022, and the second (60%) by the end of January 2023 for areas that have provided a planned spending report, fortnightly activity data and have met the associated grant conditions.
- 3.4 In drawing up plans, we have prioritised those approaches that we feel will be most effective in freeing up the maximum number of hospital beds and reducing bed days lost within the funding available, including from mental health inpatient settings.
- 3.5 Halton's planned spending report is attached to this report (*Discharge Fund 2022-23 Funding Template : Excel Spreadsheet*)

Examples of the schemes outlined include:-

- Additional Social Work Capacity within the Discharge Teams.
- Additional Care & Support Worker & Therapy Provision in Reablement.
- Care Homes – Additional Spot Purchase of beds, when necessary.
- Financial Support to Nursing/Dementia Nursing Care Homes to help retain existing workforce and keep beds open to improve admissions.
- Additional support for Acute Hospital Discharge Co-ordination for those patients not requiring Social Care.

3.6 In line with agreed One Halton Governance arrangements, the ASC Discharge Fund Plan will be presented to the One Halton Adults Finance Sub Group and One Halton Finance and Performance Sub-Committee, but due to the scheduling of the meetings and the deadline for submission this will be done retrospectively, with formal approval of the Plan delegated to the Executive Director, Adults and the Place Director for NHS Cheshire and Merseyside.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 As referenced earlier in the report, the ASC Discharge Fund will sit within the Better Care Fund which, in turn, sits within the wider pooled budget arrangement and the financial context of the local health and social care environment.

5.2 The pooling of resources and integrating processes and approach to the management of the ASC Discharge Fund will support the management of delayed discharges over the winter period.

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**

The ASC Discharge Plan which has been developed is linked to the priorities identified for the borough by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There is a requirement for fortnightly monitoring returns to be made on activity against the plan and therefore any risks identified as part of the plan's implementation will be identified and managed as part of this process.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None identified.

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

9.1 None identified under the meaning of the Act.