

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 16th March 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adult Services

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Halton Borough Council and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside: Joint Working Agreement (Better Care (Pooled) Fund)

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present, for approval, the Joint Working Agreement (JWA) between Halton Borough Council (HBC) and NHS Cheshire & Merseyside (CM), which will take effect from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, and which will replace the current JWA which is due to expire on 31st March 2023; current draft can be found at **Appendix 1**.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board:

- i) **note the contents of the report and associated Appendix; and**
- ii) **approve the Agreement, with delegated authority to the Executive Director, Adult Services, in consultation with Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to finalise the new JWA.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 HBC and NHS CM (previously NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group) have had a JWA, including a pooled budget, in place for the commissioning of services for people with Complex Care needs since April 2013.

3.2 Since it's original development, the JWA and associated Pooled Budget has gone through a number of changes including the inclusion of the Better Care Fund in 2015 and the separating out of the Continuing Healthcare and Community Care budget elements in 2020.

3.3 Both HBC and NHS CM remain committed to developing our integrated approach to service delivery and transformation to improve the Health and Wellbeing of Halton residents.

With this in mind, we are seeking agreement to extend the current JWA for 12 months to allow time for a fuller review of the agreement to take place, which would include exploring opportunities for where the arrangements could possibly be extended.

3.4 However, it was acknowledged by both parties that although the current agreement would need to be extended for 12 months, it did need to be amended/updated to reflect

changes in organisational structure, governance arrangements associated with the JWA, Pooled Budget and One Halton Partnership governance arrangements.

These changes have been reflected in the updated agreement (*Appendix 1*)

- 3.5 At the time of writing this report, some minor issues associated with governance arrangements are still to be finalised before the end of March 2023, along with the final amount to be included within the pooled budget.

As such, the Executive Board are asked to give delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and the Executive Director, Adult Social Services to finalise the new JWA.

- 3.6 The Board will note that the JWA is currently being taken through NHS CM's associated governance channels, at Place and at main Board level, for approval.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None identified.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 At the time of writing this report, HBC and NHS CM are in the process of finalising the Better Care (Pooled) Fund budget for 2023/24.

- 5.2 With effect from 1st April 2023, the pooled budget will include:-

- Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)
 - Includes spend in areas such as Intermediate Care Services, Carers, Equipment Services, Care Homes, Domiciliary Care, Telecare, Supported Discharge, Community Respiratory and Rehabilitation Services
- Disabled Facility Grant

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 will continue to ensure 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 CM and the regulatory and monitoring arrangements contained within.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None associated with this report.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no environmental or climate implications as a direct result of this report.

10.0 **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 Cheshire & Merseyside 1.4.20 – 31.3.23	Copy available via Email	Sue Wallace Bonner Susan.Wallace-Bonner@halton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 511 8825