



Report sponsor: Cllr Alison Martin, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care;  
Andy Smith, Strategic Director - People Services  
Report author: Kirsty McMillan, Director of NHS Integration & Prevention

## **Consultation on Integration between Derby City Council & Derbyshire Community Health Services for the delivery of reablement, short term care and urgent support**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 The Council is proposing to enter a formal partnership agreement with Derbyshire Community Health Services, an NHS Foundation Trust, to jointly deliver a range of reablement and urgent support services aimed at helping people remain independent at home for as long as possible. Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 enables Councils and NHS bodies to work in partnership. This is referred to as a 'Section 75 Partnership Agreement'.
- 1.2 The partnership agreement being proposed would be designed to create a single service that supports people to remain at home when their health or care needs change, but also to return home following a hospital admission, by receiving short term rehabilitation and reablement support.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval to commence consulting with stakeholders about this proposal, including engaging with individuals who may be using the relevant services now, or who may potentially need the service in the future.

### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To agree to the proposed consultation about a formal partnership agreement being established between Derby City Council and Derbyshire Community Health Services and to delegate responsibility for delivery to Andy Smith, Strategic Director – People Services, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Integrated Health and Adult Care.
- 2.2 To agree to receive a further report back so that Cabinet can consider whether the Council should enter into a partnership agreement. This consideration would be after the consultation period so that Cabinet can take account of feedback obtained.

### **Reasons**

- 3.1 The NHS and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements Regulations 2000 stipulate that “the partners may not enter into any partnership agreements [under Section 75 (s75) of the NHS Act 2006] unless they have consulted jointly such persons as appear to them to be affected by such arrangements”. This proposal would enable us to seek views and test out the impact the proposals may have, before we formally enter into an agreement to pool our resources.

- 3.2 Nationally, integrating the planning and delivery of care for local people between health and social care is at the heart of current policy agenda. Integration at all levels is front and centre in both the Health and Social Care Bill and Social Care Reform White Papers. The new Integrated Care System in Derbyshire is required to deliver an Integrated Care Strategy setting out how its vision for integration will be delivered and this must be co produced with all system partners during 2023. It is within this strategic context that the proposals for further integration between Derby City Council and DCHS are now firmly positioned.
- 3.3 The Council and Derbyshire Community Health Service are already working closely together to deliver rehabilitation and reablement using multi-professional assessments, by sharing staffing skills, training and development. The proposal to enter a formal partnership arrangement would be aimed at building on the success so far, to enable both organisations to manage increasing demand for services into the future. The partnership would be aimed at providing more people with reablement and rehabilitation so that they have a better chance of remaining independent at home, and less dependent on health and care services to keep them safe, healthy and well.

## Supporting information

- 4.1 Both Derby City Council (DCC) and Derbyshire Community Health Services (DCHS) have been working closely together for a number of years; more recently this has been driven by operational imperatives and the development of **Team Up** as a way of working to benefit our citizens. Team Up is a Derby and Derbyshire wide initiative that aims to join up care and support provided by separate health and care organisations to benefit individuals who use services. Team Up aims to create one team across health and social care who see all vulnerable and frail residents in a neighbourhood. The Team Up team is not necessarily a physical team but rather it is a teaming up of existing services – with general practice, community, mental healthcare, adult social care and the voluntary and community sector all working together

It is believed that a formal collaboration would help the Council and DCHS provide a more seamless service for local people by removing duplication of efforts, differences in approach and organisational barriers that exist by operating separately. It would be designed to improve the quality, co-ordination and accessibility of health and care for local people. The emphasis is proposed to be on providing more people with reablement and rehabilitation as a way of preventing an escalation of their needs i.e to provide time limited support for people in a timely way to prevent them needing to leave their home, experience a medical or other crisis, or be admitted to hospital. The aims of entering a more formal partnership arrangement would be to:

- Help more people to be supported with their urgent health and care needs at home, particularly so they can benefit from reablement, care and therapies to help regain their physical ability and remain living independently following a medical episode or hospital admission/ presentation.
- Create a more consistent care offer by increasing the overall capacity to respond to urgent demand from people that is being experienced including for support to be discharge from hospital. This demand for health and care in

anticipated to rise due to the demographic changes in the population in the coming years.

- Reduce the different contact points for individuals, their families and professionals by undertaking a single initial assessment and then responding using a wider mix of skills and abilities in a new single staff team. By working as one team, with access to shared care records, this would progress the overall ambition to “tell it once” as people would know that their health and care information is available to all the professionals who support them.
- Improve and develop a shared workforce to see an improvement in the recruitment and retention of carer and support worker roles by having a wider and more varied career pathway for staff. Both organisations are experiencing high vacancy rates and the partnership arrangement will offers an opportunity to design job roles differently as part of a single service offer.

4.2 Under the relevant legislation and regulations, consultation is required in advance of entering a formal partnership arrangement to seek views and ideas from all relevant stakeholders. It is proposed that this would be in the form of an on line and paper questionnaire, but also using structured discussions with a variety of people and organisations (see section 5 below). The consultation would be used to explain the legal framework that enables Councils and NHS bodies to work together in this way, what may change compared to how service operate now, and how the arrangements would be monitored and reviewed.

4.3 The consultation questionnaire would set out the potential benefits to individuals that would be gained, as well as to the wider health and care partnership in Derby and would views about this. It would also explain some of the limitations of the current arrangements and seek views on how these could be improved should the formal partnership not go forward. These limitations include:

- DCHS and Derby City Council having limited capacity to provide discharge support or help people stay at home in an urgent crisis (this covers approximately 80 people a week but we estimate there are is an additional 20% more people we cannot reach). This means that not everyone currently can access reablement or urgent support when they need it, and this is causing some people to be delayed from leaving hospital or having to wait at home for an assessment of their needs for longer.
- Some people need to access private care providers for short term home care and short term residential care without having received any reablement or rehabilitation first. This intervention may have been able to increase or maintain their independence and improve their opportunity to remain at home for longer. Whilst these interventions can't always improve someone's health, independence and wellbeing, the outcomes from reablement and rehabilitation evidence that an individual is more likely to remain at home, and gain access to other support such as from the voluntary and community sector or assistive technology.

## **Public/stakeholder engagement**

- 5.1 The consultation and engagement are proposed to take place during August, September and October and would be as wide reaching as possible. The aim would be to seek views and ideas from:
- Local people who may already be using or have recently used, one of the services that are in scope
  - Local people who may potentially benefit from using these services into the future
  - Healthwatch and other citizens' voice organisation or advocates
  - DCHS's Council of Governors
  - The City Council's Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
  - Staff who are currently working in the services, or whom make referrals to the service
  - Partner organisation such as local GPs, the University Hospitals of Derby & Burton, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, DHU Derbyshire, Community Action Derby and other local voluntary and community organisations
- 5.2 **Integrated Care Partnership/ Derby City Place Board** – it is proposed there should be dedicated discussions at the Integrated Care Partnership and the Derby City Place Board, given the links with this proposal at the system wide model around integration - **Team Up**. The proposal for formal integration being proposed for the Council and DCHS will strengthen the City Team Up model so that more people are kept safe and at home supported by a seamless community health and care team, avoiding as many people as possible having to go to hospital.

### Other options

- 6.1 **Do nothing** - Both Derby City Council and Derbyshire Community Health Services could continue to work closely together without taking the formal step of becoming a single service and pooling their funds under a s75 Partnership agreement. Both services could continue to operate separately and continue to work jointly to improve service delivery as best as could be done within capacity constraints. This option is the status quo and it not being proposed at this stage as this would mean forgoing the benefits that are anticipated by operating together i.e to maximise the opportunities envisaged.

### Financial and value for money issues

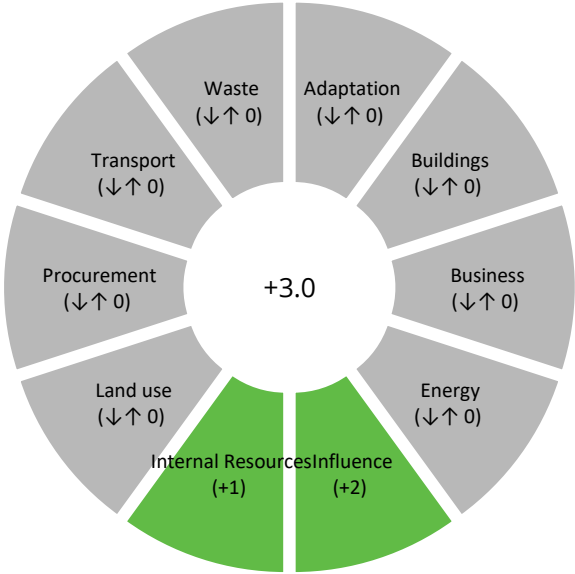
- 7.1 Creating a formal partnership agreement under s75 of the 2006 Health Act requires the creation of a pooled budget between the Council and the NHS. Each party is required to set out the financial contribution being made over the life of the agreement and set out provisions for how this will be reviewed or varied. It is anticipated that pooling resources, operating flexibly and delegating duties and functions to each party, will lead to a more efficient and effective service for local people.

### Legal implications

- 8.1 This consultation sets out a proposal to put in place a formal partnership agreement (known as a S75 Agreement) between Derby City Council and Derbyshire Community Health Services. The NHS and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements Regulations 2000 stipulate that “the partners may not enter into any partnership agreements [under Section 75 (s75) of the NHS Act 2006] unless they have consulted jointly such persons as appear to them to be affected by such arrangements”. This consultation will satisfy this requirement and will also help shape the future proposals ahead of any partnership agreement being drafted between the parties.
- 8.2 Should the Council and Derbyshire Community Health Services decide to enter into a formal agreement under the above legislation, the agreement will need to clearly set out the other legal frameworks that apply – including the duties that each party may be responsible for delivering on behalf of the other. This will require clear governance arrangements to be put in place with clarity about where accountabilities lies in terms of each bodies’ statutory duties with regards to health related activities.

**Climate implications**

- 9.1 There are no significant climate implications arising from this report. The consultation will be an opportunity for citizens to discuss their ideas and although unlikely in this case, any public engagement may provide an opportunity to elicit some feedback relating to climate and environmental issues.



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**Socio-Economic implications**

10.1 The individuals currently supported by reablement and rehabilitation services are likely to be people who may have had an ill health episode, or whom are living with a long term disability or health condition. Expanding the reach of these services will mean that more people will be able to benefit and see an improvement to their overall health and well being which is likely to positively impact on health inequalities, as many people experiencing health inequalities are disabled, older people and those affected by frailty.

### Other significant implications

11.1 Although not required in the Regulations, an Equalities Impact assessment will be carried out in advance as part of the consultation so that any decision to enter into any formal arrangement and agreement can ensure that due regard is given to equalities impacts. This will assist with establishing whether there are impacts from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective that need consideration within the proposed operating arrangements.

This report has been approved by the following people:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of sign-off</b>
<b>Legal</b>	Olu Idowu	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>Finance</b>	Janice Hadfield	
<b>Service Director(s)</b>	Kirsty McMillan	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Andy Smith, Derby City Council	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>Other(s)</b>		

<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	None