

## Wiltshire Council

### Cabinet

27 November 2018

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**Subject: Extension of Intermediate Care Bed Service contracts for 2019-2020**

**Cabinet Member: Cllr Jerry Wickham – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection**

**Key Decision: Key**

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#### **Executive Summary**

Wiltshire Council, in partnership with Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), commission a joint Intermediate Care Service of a total of 70 beds, 55 step down beds and 10 step up beds, in 9 care homes across Wiltshire, with an additional 5 beds that the service is able to spot purchase as required. The Intermediate Care beds are funded via the Better Care Fund.

At any one time, there are a number of patients in acute beds whose medical episode is complete but who are unable to be safely discharged home at that point in time. Intermediate care beds in care homes are used as a 'stepping stone' to enable customers to return home after a spell in an acute or community hospital (step down beds). There are also beds which are accessible by GPs to admit patients who do not require acute care, but are not safe to remain at home, for short term care. The aim is to avoid customers being admitted to an acute hospital unnecessarily (step up beds).

The Council and CCG are committed to minimising the number of customers making decisions about their long-term care needs in an acute setting, increasing the number able to remain living at home and reducing the total number of customers who are permanently admitted into care homes.

#### **Proposal(s)**

The request is that Cabinet:

- Approve an additional extension of the Intermediate Care Bed Service contracts as an exception for a further 12 months.
- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director with responsibility for Adult Care to approve the contract variations needed to achieve the above

A full review of bed based services will commence in September for completion in February. This will inform discussions with all providers, including the residential, nursing and intermediate care block providers, and then clearly

identify how many and what type of beds will need to be commissioned. Time will be needed to fully engage with the market.

**Reason for Proposal(s)**

The current Intermediate Care bed service contracts will expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019; therefore, we are requesting that Cabinet approves an additional extension of these contracts as an exception for a further 12 months to enable a full Wiltshire bed review to be completed in order to ensure that the appropriate number and type of beds are commissioned across the system

**Dr Carlton Brand – Corporate Director**

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### Purpose of Report

1. This paper requests that an extension to the current Intermediate Care bed service is agreed for a further year (until 31 March 2020) and that Cabinet delegates authority to the Corporate Director with responsibility for Adult Care to approve the necessary contract variations.

### Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The Wiltshire Council Business Plan 2017-2027 makes a commitment to minimising the number of people able to remain living at home and reducing the total number of people who are permanently admitted to a care home.

### Background

3. Sixty of the Intermediate care beds are used as a 'stepping stone' for customers to return home after a spell in an acute or community hospital (step down beds). Ten beds are used as "step up beds" which are accessible by GPs to admit patients which will avoid the person being admitted to an acute setting unnecessarily.
4. The occupancy rates below demonstrate a high level of use of the Intermediate Care beds, with minimal void rate.

year	month	Step down %	Step up %
2017	August 2017	93	96
	September	89	95
	October	94	89
	November	93	91
	December	90	89
2018	January	95	90
	February	93	95
	March	91	95
	April	93	82
	May	95	95
	June	87	98
	July	89	93

5. The Council and CCG are committed to minimising the number of customers making decisions about their long-term care needs in an acute setting, increasing the number able to remain living at home and reducing the total number of customers who are permanently admitted into care homes.

### **Main Considerations for the Council**

6. For the Council to:
  - approve the extension of the current Intermediate Care bed service to enable continued support of people being discharged to an appropriate service and to support timely discharges from Acute hospitals, while a full Wiltshire wide bed review is conducted.
  - To approve that delegated authority is given to the Corporate Director with responsibility for Adult Care to approve the necessary contract variations.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Engagement**

7. Intermediate Care, and bed provision, was an area of focus for the Better Care Plan task group and remains an area of interest for the Health Select Committee, who will continue overseeing developments on this topic following Cabinet's decision.
8. Following an invitation from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Public Protection a Rapid Scrutiny on this report took place on Thursday 8 November. The findings of the rapid scrutiny exercise are presented in Appendix 3.

### **Safeguarding Implications**

9. There are no known safeguarding implications.

### **Public Health Implications**

10. If the extension of the current Intermediate Care bed service is approved, there will be continued positive outcomes for service users' health and wellbeing. The aim of the service is to improve service users' independence to enable them to return home whenever possible.
11. If the extension of the current Intermediate Care bed service is not approved, there will be negative implications for service users and the Acute hospitals. For the service user, there will be unnecessary extended acute hospital stays, as the service user will not be safe to return home and rehabilitation will have to continue within the acute setting, which there is limited ability to do this. Extended stays in hospital lead to the service user experiencing a reduction in independence and requiring increased support on discharge or long-term placement.
12. For each organisation (CCG and the Council) if the extension is not approved there is the risk that Wiltshire will continue to commission inappropriate numbers of the various types of bed base, with potential negative financial implications. Currently the council has excess voids within the residential care block bed contract, which is suggesting that the council has too many of this

type of bed. The extension will allow for a review of all beds, not just IC beds, during which time we can consider the best use of all beds available.

### **Procurement Implications**

13. The request for a further extension to the Intermediate Care bed contract does fall outside of the current contract, which ends on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, therefore the request is for Cabinet to agree the extension as an exemption
14. Prior to the commencement of the extension timeframe (if Cabinet agree the request) Commissioning and Procurement will meet with the current bed providers to enter into negotiation with them in order to continue the contract with them for a further year.
15. The commissioners will also discuss the continued support of the beds with the current GP providers.

### **Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

16. An equalities impact assessment was carried out in conjunction with the Nursing home block bed tender in 2016.
17. The procurement of nursing/residential home beds through block contracts and framework agreements by the Council will support equitable access to 24hr care in a care home setting for people who do not have the financial means to secure this care themselves.
18. The specification for the service states that providers will be expected to demonstrate use of local resources and provision of services which take account of customer's religion and culture.
19. The procurement process ensures that organisations entering into a contract with the Council must have their own policies and procedures in place to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

### **Environmental and Climate Change Considerations**

20. There are no specific environmental or climate change considerations.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken**

21. If Cabinet were not to approve the extension of current arrangements, there will be the continued pressure on Intermediate Care beds, whilst there are other Wiltshire Council residential care block beds remaining vacant. The bed review will identify what bed base is required to best support Wiltshire's population, whilst providing best value.

### **Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks**

22. There may be a perceived risk that extending current arrangements removes some impetus to progress with transformation. Decreasing the number of Intermediate Care beds is written within each provider's contract and it has always been the plan to reduce the number of beds when the community has capacity to support this cohort of customers in their home environment. However, without the bed review we are not able to ensure we have the right

beds in the right place. The review will start in September and be for no longer than 6 months.

## Financial Implications

23. Intermediate Care bed service is funded via the Better Care Fund.

24. Beds currently commissioned are:

Care Home	step up	number of beds
	step down	
<b>NEW</b>		
Avon Court Chippenham	down	5
Avon Court Chippenham	down	5
Bassett House	down	5
Ex Athelstan House – now used as spot purchased beds	down	5
<b>Total for NEW</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>WWYKD</b>		
The Westbury	down	8
Market Lavington	down	7
<b>Total for WWYKD</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>SARUM</b>		
Camelot, Amesbury	down	5
Little Manor, Salisbury	down	14
Castle View	down	
Ashley Grange	down	6
<b>SARUM step down</b>		<b>25</b>
<b>SARUM step up</b>		
Ashley Grange	up	2
Kimberley House	up	8
<b>SARUM step up</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Total for SARUM</b>		<b>35</b>
<b>Total for Wiltshire</b>		<b>70</b>

25. There will be a minimum cost increase due to annual uplift costs for 2019 – 2020, but there could also be the potential of providers requesting to review their rates as this exception falls outside the current contract dates, however these beds are funded from the Better Care Fund and not from the Council's base budget. This will form part of the negotiations as mentioned in para 14.

### **Legal Implications**

26. Local authorities must meet their duty of care to identify, assess and support people. The council must ensure that our population is provided with the most appropriate services which are value for money and provide effective, efficient support.
27. The proposed course of action is also consistent with the council's duty to secure "best value" under the Local Government Act 1999.
28. [The legal issues and risks associated with the proposed extension of current arrangements are set out in a separate Part 2 report.]

### **Options Considered**

29. Retender for current level of bed base of Intermediate Care beds. This was not considered to be a viable option as it would tie the Council into a longer period of time without a clear bed strategy.
30. Extension for a further year to enable completing a Wiltshire wide bed review, with the aim to then commission the appropriate number and type of beds to support Wiltshire's population.

### **31. Conclusions**

Cabinet is requested to:

- approve the extension of the Intermediate Care bed service contracts for a further year until 31 March 2020.
- Approve delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Adult Care for the contract variations needed to achieve the above.

This will continue to support the reduction in Delayed Transfer of Care and admissions to residential from an acute setting while enabling a Wiltshire wide bed review to be conducted during this time.

**Helen Jones**, Director of Commissioning

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Report Author: Deborah Elliott, Community Commissioner (Intermediate Care Bed Service),

21 August 2018

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 (part ii) Finance – exempt from publication  
Appendix 2 (part ii) Legal - exempt from publication  
Appendix 3 – minutes of the Rapid Scrutiny meeting

## **Background Papers**

None