



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

DERBYSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

30th January 2025

Report of the Director of Adult Social Care and Health

Health and Social Care – Consultation around further integration

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the decisions made by the Council with respect to its directly provided residential services and the decision made by the Council and Derbyshire Community Health Services to facilitate a joint public consultation into the possibility of entering into a formal partnership together under s 75 of the NHS Act 2006.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 Derbyshire County Council conducted a 12-week consultation in May – August 2024 after its cabinet agreed to consult on two proposals designed to use its directly delivered residential resources to meet the need identified across the County. The proposals were to provide specialist dementia residential care with carer support through respite breaks whilst continuing to work in partnership with health colleagues to provide short term assessment and reablement services to support people to regain independence and return to their home.
- 2.2 The Council and Derbyshire Community Health Service are already working closely together to deliver rehabilitation and reablement by using multi-professional assessments and by sharing staffing skills, training and development. During the consultation in the summer, the Council received feedback from system partners about the benefits of further integration as a way of enabling system partners to manage

increasing demand into the future and as a way to improve the service for local people.

- 2.3 We know the benefits for people of conducting a dynamic, multidisciplinary assessment outside the acute hospital setting, with joint consideration given by health and social care to a person's ability to return or remain at home. We know outcomes for people who are able to leave hospital when they are medically fit to do so, are significantly improved. By working more closely together, potentially with a shared management structure, Adult Social Care and the NHS anticipate the benefits of joint working will be enhanced.
- 2.4 In November 2024, Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Community Health Services made the decision, in accordance with the respective governance procedures for each organisation, to conduct a joint public consultation into the possibility of further integration between the two organisations. Interested stakeholders were asked to provide feedback around a proposal to form a new partnership which would see a single service responsible for undertaking reablement assessments and delivering short periods of reablement and rehabilitation for those that need it.
- 2.5 The consultation ran for a period of six weeks between 5th December 2024 to 16th January 2025. If agreed following consultation, the formal partnership may operate using section 75 of the NHS Act 2006, which is a legal framework that allows the pooling of budgets and the joining together of colleagues under one management structure. This framework allows a lead provider to carry out certain functions on behalf of the other organisation.
- 2.6 There are a number of potential benefits and opportunities for working in this way some of which are listed below:
 - To create a long-term strategic partnership between DCHS and Derbyshire County Council
 - To help manage rising demand for health and social care services in the county in a challenging financial climate.
 - Help to scale up reablement/ admission avoidance/ crisis and urgent community response – especially linked to wider non-mainstream interventions
 - Reduced cost and demand for ongoing social care for Derbyshire County Council
 - Reduce risk of re-admission to hospital / community health services

2.4 Both organisations will make recommendations through their respective decision-making processes in February and depending upon the outcome will commence work to further integrate.

3. Alternative Options Considered

3.1 The alternative option considered at this stage is not to undertake the public consultation and to continue with the current informal integration. This was not considered to be the best option given the potential benefits for both organisations and the system generally for providing a fully integrated and effective reablement service.

4. Consultation

5.1 As above.

5. Background Papers

7.1 Derbyshire County Council Cabinet Report – 14th November 2024

The proposed redesign of residential care and day opportunities for older people – consultation responses and recommendations. [Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 14 November 2024, 2.00 pm - Derbyshire County Council](#)

6. Appendices

None

7. Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the content of the report.

8. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

10.1 To keep the Health and Wellbeing Board updated on a significant proposal for further integration between health and social care.

Report Author: Jenny Harper, Assistant Director – Transformation

Contact details: Jennifer.harper@derbyshire.gov.uk

Organisation: Derbyshire County Council

HWB Sponsor: Simon Steven, Executive Director Social Care and Health

Implications

Financial

1.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

Legal

2.1 There are no legal implications of this report.

Human Resources

3.1 There are no human resource implications of this report.

Equalities Impact

4.1 There are no human resource implications of this report.

Partnerships

5.1 There are implications for Adult Social Care, Derbyshire Community Healthcare Services and the ICB as are set out in the body of the report.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy Areas of Focus

6.1 By supporting people, through an effective and well-integrated reablement service partners are supporting people to remain in their own homes and be as independent as possible for as long as possible which support communities to be resilient and independent, Area of Focus 3.

Other implications

7.1 None