

REPORT TITLE:	Discharge of Roles and Responsibilities since the last meeting of the Council
REPORT AUTHOR:	Councillor Fenton-Glynn
AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:	Adult Services and Wellbeing
DATE:	30 November 2022

Care Reforms

The care reforms which were due to come into place in 2023 (originally implementation date was 2017), and following the Autumn Statement this has now been postponed by a further 2 years. There is a real cost to the ongoing uncertainty that this creates, it means we will not have a clear pathway to funding, following significant work to establish a fair cost of care and locally preparing for new systems to ensure readiness for the new funding arrangements.

The introduction of care reform would have required significant investment in technology and resources. Work is underway to assess the level of demand that self-funders will bring to the system and the increased level of cost that will be required for additional resources to meet the demand. The Council has invested in the Better Care Finance system (for online financial assessments) and may also acquire Better Care Support & Care online platform to improve the throughput of social care assessments, the calculation of personal budgets and management of individual Care Accounts. Some preparatory work has already started to integrate data for the of Better Care platform with the existing case management system. The Government funding to implement the reforms was to come from the new Health and Social Care Levy, however in September 2022 it was announced the levy will be cancelled.

Park View

Park View Care Home, Lee Mount Halifax has now formally closed. The decision to close the home was made by the proprietor and was based upon the long term financial viability of the home. The Local Authority (LA) and Integrate Care Board (ICB) worked very closely with the home, to ensure that appropriate alternative placements were secured for residents. All residents have now moved to new settings that meet their individual health and social care needs. Decisions around alternative support have been made in full consultation with residents, families and the staff team at Park View. Social care staff from the LA will remain in close contact with former residents and families to ensure that the residents have settled in their new homes and are receiving the care and support they require.

The LA and ICB have continued to support the home during this difficult time and measures were put in place to ensure that the residents at Park View remained safe and well cared for during the planned closure. Measures have included financial

support, individual support to residents and families and assistance and advice to the staff team at the home. The proprietor and staff at Park View have cooperated fully with the support available and have been working with LA and ICB partners to ensure a safe and well managed closure. The proprietor has been reminded to ensure that all personal information remaining in the home is dealt with in line with data protection regulations.

When the Council is responsible for so many care placements, and extra care placements there will always be the inevitable risk of this occurring with individual providers. I think what defines us is how we respond to them. I am incredibly proud of the diligent hard work Calderdale's team did with the provider, first, to try to find a financially stable future, then when it became clear that wasn't possible, to sensitively manage the closure and move the residents to their alternative homes, with all the appropriate parties involved, particularly families and carers. The team were mindful of the safety and care of residents throughout.

Fair Cost of Care (FCoC)

As part of the above, postponement of the Care Reforms, we recently undertook a fair cost of care exercise. This was to look at the care we commission as a Council and whether that is sustainable and compatible with those who pay for their care privately and the increasing cost of publicly funded placements as outlined below:

1. Local Authorities were required to conduct a cost of care exercise in 2022 to determine the sustainable rates and identify how close they are to it.
2. The results were submitted to DHSC on 14/10/22, alongside a draft Market Sustainability Plan
3. Commissioners engaged with local providers to improve data on operational costs and number of self-funders to better understand the impact of reform on the local market (particularly the 65+ residential care market, but also additional pressures to domiciliary care). This included the use of specialist toolkits to look at the range of costs associated with providing care. The data was analysed to create median costs of care and to remove any anomalies impacting upon the quality of the local results.
4. The exercise was conducted with regional and national support to ensure a consistent approach was taken.
5. The draft MSP sets out how we will use additional funding to genuinely increase fee rates, as appropriate to local circumstances. Calderdale is using initial funding to address key pressures (subject to DHSC approval), the MSP sets out our intentions until 2025 subject to funding allocations being agreed and confirmed.
6. Calderdale engaged with local providers to complete the FCoC and inform the draft MSP
7. Results indicate that the costs of providing homecare exceed Calderdale's current fee model as do the costs across residential and nursing care.

We are still awaiting formal feedback from the DHSC on our submission and they have said this will be in late Autumn. Once we have the formal feedback and approval in relation to our draft Market Position Statement we can distribute the funding allocated for this financial year. Our priorities in the draft plan set out the crucial role of Homecare funding to underpin our home first approach, the development of Extra Care as a viable alternative to residential care and support to

care homes with exceptional inflationary pressures. The long-term plans will be dependent upon financial settlements for LAs to be confirmed in the fiscal statement. Commissioners continue to meet with providers to discuss the FCoC and work towards the implementation of the Ethical Care Charter (ECC). Provider forums were held in October and updates were given to care home providers and homecare care providers. A further meeting is planned for early December to discuss the FCoC and ECC with homecare providers.

ASC case management system

Following a review of the in-house Adults' and Children's Social Care Case Management System, a report to Cabinet recommended the purchase of an externally hosted joint case management solution and establish a team to support and administer any new system. The recommendation was approved by Cabinet on 10th October. Work is progressing on the development of a requirements specification in consultation with key stakeholders and subject matter experts across all areas of the business. An ASC Digital Transformation Board have been established to oversee the project management, procurement and implementation of the new system. Procurement will be via the new Crown Commercial Services Vertical Applications Solution Framework and will commence on go live of the framework in early February 2023. It is anticipated that a new solution will have been selected by late April 2024, with implementation of the new system commencing as soon after as is reasonably practicable.

Calderdale Cares Careers



As I've mentioned before there is a recruitment crisis in care. Locally and nationally, care homes, home care and supported living providers are struggling with staff shortages and this is putting a massive strain on their services. We have launched a new website which aims to increase the quality and quantity of applications and match adult social care workers with their perfect role so they can support vulnerable people in Calderdale and make a real difference to their lives. The new recruitment website promotes a variety of jobs and training available to those contemplating care work as a career and serve as a dedicated platform for Calderdale providers to post their vacancies. This is supported by a marketing campaign to support the launch, which include targeted social media, billboards and bus shelters. Over 40 providers have now registered on the website and over 30 jobs posted.

We continue to do what we can as an authority to support care to recruit, including our promise to bring all care staff employed or commissioned by Calderdale up to a real living wage.

www.CalderdaleCaresCareers.co.uk

Mytholm Meadows

There have been further delays with the renovation works at Mytholm Meadows Extra Care facility in Hebden Bridge. It has come to light that the remedial works are much more extensive than originally anticipated, further impacted by the significantly higher inflation costs for labour and materials. Together Housing have therefore consulted with their Board and recently agreed for the work to now commence.

Currently the project is approximately 4 months behind schedule and therefore it is likely to be at least **early 2024** before residents will be able to move back in. If there is any possibility for tenants can move back in sooner, every effort will be made to make this happen.

Staff will continue to communicate and explain the situation to residents and their families, face-to-face and arrange any follow up discussions that individuals and their families would wish to have.

Railway Bridge View Extra Care Scheme



Railway Bridge View (RBV) is a new 65-apartment extra care setting situated in Brighthouse which was completed in July 2022 by builders Equans and officially opened in October. A press release covering the completion of the scheme was published on 11th November and reported in the Halifax Courier, The Business Desk. Com and Telegraph and Argus. The scheme is split into 5 shared ownership apartments and 60 rented one or two bedroomed apartments. The setting has a dementia focus. The landlords are Home Group and the onsite care and support provider is Roche Homecare. The project has been a joint venture between Housing and Adult Social Care and Wellbeing Services. To date 40 apartments have been let to people over 55 years with a care and support and or a housing need and 25 residents have now moved in to RBV. 3 of the 5 shared ownership units are also reserved. Positive feedback has been received from residents who have moved in with some saying the move has been “life changing” for them.