

Cabinet – 23 March 2005

Integrated Community Equipment Services

Portfolio: Councillor Alan Paul – Health & Social Care

Service Area: Adult Services

Wards: All

Forward Plan: Yes

Summary of report

In the Department of Health Guidance published March 2001, the Government stated an expectation of all Local Authorities that they produce an Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES), in partnership with the NHS. This report updates the Cabinet on progress towards the implementation of this expectation and requests Cabinet approval to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust using Section 31 of the 1999 Health Act.

A report was presented to Cabinet on 15 October 2003, outlining the proposals to develop an Integrated Community Equipment Service in Walsall.

Cabinet approved the recommendation that the Integrated Stores function should be managed by Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust as a single unit for the borough as a whole, and also approved the TUPE transfer of the Social Services Stores Personnel to Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust.

Subsequently, Walsall MBC and Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust have agreed to restructure services and deliver an integrated service, with the appointment of a Joint Head of Service of Younger Adults and Disability Services. Walsall Council will therefore take the role of lead commissioner and host agency, with the Primary Care Trust providing the service through its provider function.

A Section 31 Partnership Agreement between Walsall Council and Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust will now need to be put in place for the creation of a pooled budget and lead commissioning arrangement, with the Council as the host agency. A Service Specification and a Contract between Walsall MBC as the lead commissioner and the Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust as the provider of the service will also be put in place.

Recommendations

- (1) Cabinet approve the proposal to put in place a Section 31 Agreement with Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust, subject to approval by the respective Primary Care Trust Board.

- (2) Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director (Mr David Martin) to enter into agreements for the future provision of this service with Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust.

Resource and legal considerations

The pooled budget of £1.1 million consists of funding identified by both the Local Authority and Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust.

There are no significant financial implications associated with the transfer of the Local Authority Charles Street Stores to Bentley Lane.

The Partnership Agreement has been developed and approved by the local authority Legal Section and the Primary Care Trust legal advisers.

Citizen impact

The number of people assisted by the Community Equipment Service will increase by 50% thus providing improved quality of life outcomes for older people and people with disabilities.

Community safety

There are no implications for community safety arising from this decision.

Environmental impact

There are no implications arising from this report.

Performance and risk management issues

These proposals will directly impact on the Department of Health's Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) indicator D54 (% Items of equipment costing less than £1,000 delivered within 7 working days). This performance indicator is a key threshold to be increased in future years, which confers additional priority and weighting when arriving at an overall performance judgement for a social services department. Walsall is currently performing at mid-range for this indicator with PAF Band 3 performance.

There are no additional risks to the Local Authority arising from this proposal.

Equality implications

The Integrated Community Equipment Store will ensure that older people and vulnerable adults with disabilities are able to continue living at home as an alternative to residential care.

Consultation

The report has been prepared in consultation with Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust. Service users and carers, as members of the ICES Steering Group, are involved with the service specification and action plan. The ICES Steering Groups is a sub-group of the Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership Board. The Board monitors progress and ensures that cross cutting links are established and sustained.'

Vision 2008

These proposals will impact on the following Council priorities:

Priority 5 – Make Walsall a Healthy and Caring Place.

Priority 7 – Make it easier to access local services

Priority 9 – Listen to what people want

Priority 10 – Transform Walsall into an excellent local authority

Background papers

Cabinet Report – 15 October 2003

Guide to Integrating Community Equipment Services, Department of Health March 2001

Section 31 Partnership Agreement

Service Specification for Integrated Community Equipment Stores

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Signed

Executive Director: David Martin

Date: 14 March 2005



Signed

Councillor Alan Paul:

Date: 14 March 2005