



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER ON GROUNDS OF URGENCY

Decision maker: Rick O'Farrell, Chief Executive, in consultation with Cllr Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council

Use of Adult Social Care Discharge Fund

Purpose of report

To authorise spending from the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund, in line with the attached draft report for the Health and Wellbeing Board. This decision is above the delegated limit for the Executive Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member, and therefore must be made in consultation with the Leader under the urgency provisions in paragraph 2.5 of the Council's standing orders.

Recommendations

The Chief Executive is recommended:

- 1. to authorise expenditure from the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund in line with the plans for its use set out in the attached draft report for the Health and Wellbeing Board, which corresponds to the plan agreed with the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) and submitted to the national Better Care Fund Team on 16 December**
- 2. to note that this decision will be reported to the Cabinet meeting on 12 January**

Key issues

- 1. A sum totalling £2.6m has been allocated to Northumberland from the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund, of which £1,267,877 will be paid directly to the Council by the Government, and £1,331,714 has been allocated to Northumberland by NENC ICB. The Council and the ICB were required to pool this funding and treat it as part of the Better Care Fund, a funding mechanism which has been in place since 2015 designed to promote integrated working between the NHS and local government to support adults with health and care needs.**
- 2. The conditions attached to this funding, and the amounts allocated, were announced on 18 November. Officers received confirmation of the ICB allocation to**

Northumberland on 7 December, and were required to submit a plan for the spending of the funding by 16 December.

3. The Council and the ICB have agreed that all of the schemes identified in the attached report will be commissioned by the Council, in line with the existing partnership established between the Council and Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group, the predecessor to the ICB.
4. Guidance indicated that plans for spending the funding should be "agreed by LA and ICB chief executives and signed off by the HWB [Health and Wellbeing Board]". The national Better Care Fund team has indicated that the Government understands that in practice plans will have had to be agreed by officers of the Council and the ICB without formal sign-off by the HWB. The HWB also has no formal authority to commit the Council to expenditure.
5. The funding is time-limited, and must be spent by 31 March 2023. As the attached draft Health and Wellbeing Board explains, the short notice and tight timetable constrain the ways in which it can be used. The same considerations mean that both the impact of the funding and the feasibility of spending the full amount depend critically on starting to incur commitments against it as soon as possible.
6. Authorisation is therefore sought under the urgency provisions in the Council's Finance and Contract Rules to begin spending this funding immediately, in line with the plans described in the attached report.

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Use of Adult Social Care Discharge Fund

BACKGROUND

1. Background

- 1.1 The background to this decision is set out in the attached draft report for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background documents for this report within the meaning of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

The attached draft report for the Health and Wellbeing Board sets out the implications of the planned spending.

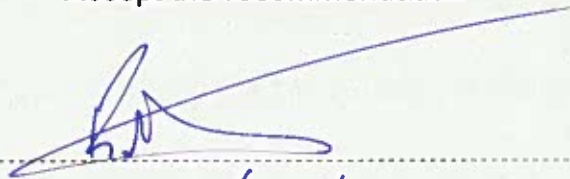
URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Subject: Use of Adult Social Care Discharge Fund

Outcome of consultation with the Leader of the Council Recommendations above agreed by the Leader

Decision Taken: Accept the recommendation

Signature of decision maker



Date

20/12/2022