

Report of the Cabinet Member **Adult Social Care and Health Services**

Introduction

I have been asked by Councillor Hannaford to report on '*the current state of Continuing Health Care Funding in Devon and its impact on our service users*' and have further been asked by Councillor Aves to report on '*the progress made to develop Wellbeing Hubs across Devon*'.

Response

Continuing Health Care Funding in Devon

For some people their need for ongoing nursing and healthcare support is of such a level that they qualify for all their care needs to be met by the NHS, including those personal and social care needs which might otherwise be met by social services. This is 'NHS Continuing Healthcare' (NHS CHC) and is care for adults aged 18 or over which is arranged and funded solely by the NHS, and is therefore free at point of delivery to the individual concerned.

The funding stream and assessment arrangements are managed and overseen by the Clinical Commissioning Groups across Devon and any further details required would need to be addressed to the NHS.

To determine if an individual is eligible to receive services funded by NHS CHC, an assessment as to whether they have a 'primary health need' is made by a team of health care professionals (often referred to as a multi-disciplinary team).

Because there is a legal upper limit to the amount of general nursing/healthcare that local authorities are allowed to provide (and charge for), there must not be a gap between what the LA can provide and what the NHS will provide, so decisions on 'primary health need' have to take account of the limits of local authority responsibility. Directions and Standing Rules Regulations set out that a person should be considered to have a primary health need if the nursing or other health services they require, when considered in their totality, are:-

(a) *where that person is, or is to be, accommodated in relevant premises, more than incidental or ancillary to the provision of accommodation which a social services authority is, or would be but for a person's means, under a duty to provide; or*

(b) *of a nature beyond which a social services authority whose primary responsibility is to provide social services could be expected to provide*

As there is greater awareness of this funding stream the demand for these complex health needs assessments has increased with delays arising in both undertaking some assessments and decisions being made about whether someone is eligible to receive their care through NHS CHC funding. There are fast track arrangements in place for people who have a rapidly deteriorating condition and may be towards their end of life.

The CCGs and Adult Social Care have agreed joint practice guidance, process and training and continue to ensure we are focused on doing the right thing for the population of Devon who may be eligible for NHS CHC funding. This means people in Devon should receive an appropriate package of support whilst any issues relating to CHC funding are resolved.

Wellbeing Hubs in Devon

The Council works in partnership with the NHS in its approach to community wellbeing, looking first at need rather than buildings. Work is underway to properly understand people's health and well-being needs in each of our communities – including GPs, local politicians and community stakeholders.

Wellbeing Hubs are only part of a wider programme of development of community services to ensure people feel connected to their communities and the things that are important to them, enabling them to live well and independently in their own homes.

Some examples of Wellbeing Hubs are listed below:

- CoLab in Exeter is an integrated Wellbeing Hub that works in collaboration with agencies across sectors to strengthen local services and achieve positive community outcomes around homelessness, addiction, (re)offending, and health inequality.
- Torrington Hub includes mental health provision and the voluntary sector, with a pilot for a wellbeing event for diabetes in March.
- The Budleigh Salterton Health and Wellbeing Hub brings together local residents, the NHS, the voluntary, statutory and business sectors providing support to local people of all ages.
- New Health and Wellbeing Centres are being developed in Chudleigh, Bovey Tracey, Teignmouth, Ashburton and Dartmouth. These bring together statutory and voluntary and community support, and provide a base for local multi-agency health and wellbeing teams.

There are lots of discussions taking place in other areas and it will be for local communities to work on this with all statutory services to develop solutions that work for each community.

**Councillor Andrew Leadbetter
Cabinet Member
Adult Social Care and Health Services**