

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Date:	16 March 2021
Title:	Clarence Unit, Woodcot Lodge
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

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1. The decision:

- a) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health note the significant system benefits, and outcomes for people, of vastly improved patient flow and reduced discharge delays (bed days lost) as a direct result of the discharge to assess service at the Clarence Unit.
- b) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health note the opportunities and challenges of sustaining the Clarence Unit Discharge to Assess service for the medium to long term.
- c) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health approves the spend of up to £7million which will be reimbursed via a cost agreement with the NHS as outlined in the finance section, save for a contribution of £500,000 from the County Council per the next recommendation. The spend figure above includes the costs associated with a further one-year lease.
- d) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health approves a financial contribution from the County Council of £500,000 towards the operating costs of the Clarence Unit in 2021/22.
- e) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health approve the continuation of HCC Care facilitating the Discharge to Assess (short stay) Care Home with Nursing service operation at Clarence Unit, Woodcot Lodge, Gosport, for up to one more year i.e. up to the end of 2021/22
- f) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health gives delegated authority to the Director of Adults' Health and Care in consultation with the Executive Member to approve required variations to existing agreements and /or the entering into further agreements including those in partnership with the NHS under S75 NHS Act 2006 to enable the County Council to deliver services in respect of discharge to assess, intermediate care step down and step-up to prevent hospital admissions and designated settings for Covid-19 positive residents at the Clarence Unit and other HCC Care settings as appropriate.

2. Reasons for the Decision

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health regarding the Discharge to Assess service, known as the Clarence Unit (located in Gosport) and operated by HCC Care as part of a multi-agency venture with the NHS. The service has so far served some 280 Hampshire residents. These are vulnerable and complex older adults who have been supported at the Clarence Unit immediately upon discharge from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust since its inception at the beginning of June 2020.
- 2.2 The report provides summary detail of the Clarence operation and looks ahead to 2021/22, headlining the opportunity (and the challenges) that exist to build on the successes to date and to put the service on a longer-term footing. The site is currently available to the local system on a short-term lease arrangement which is due to expire at the end of March. Discussions are currently progressing with the landlord to extend the lease for at least a further 12 months to enable time to work on a longer-term arrangement that will provide more certainty for staff, partners, and all concerned.
- 2.3 The report also seeks approval for the County Council to enter into further agreements including those in partnership with the NHS under S75 NHS Act 2006 to enable the County Council to deliver services in respect of discharge to assess, intermediate care, step down (including designated settings for Covid-19 positive clients) and step-up, to prevent hospital admissions at the Clarence Unit and other HCC Care settings as appropriate.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 To not extend the existing arrangements for a further 12 months. This was rejected as it is likely to be some time before facilities such as at the Clarence Unit can be scaled back. Add in the fact that step-up opportunities (an aid in terms of Acute hospital admission avoidance) for people struggling in their own homes and in need of focused recovery type support are all too scarce to non-existent, then securing the future of quality discharge to assess operations such as the Clarence Unit and other main centres in Hampshire is all the more important.

4. Conflicts of interest

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: Not applicable

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

16 March 2021

**Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Liz Fairhurst**