

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People)

to

Audit Committee

on

29th March 2017

Report prepared by: Paul Mavin Report of Group Manager,
Business Support Department for People

Section 75 Partnership Agreement Integrated Equipment Service

Executive Councillor – Councillor Salter

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

To update the Audit Committee on progress following the audit report for the Section 75 Partnership Agreement Southend Integrated Equipment Service that was undertaken during March 2016 and issued in December 2016 with a completion date of April 2017.

2. Recommendations

The Audit Committee notes the actions being taken to address the issues arising from the Section 75 Partnership Agreement Southend Integrated Equipment Service Internal Audit Report.

3. Audit Objective

- 3.1 To assess whether the Section 75 Partnership Agreement clearly sets out the service requirements and how the service will be managed on an on-going basis, to ensure that expected benefits are realised.

4. Audit Recommendations

- 4.1 The Section 75 Agreement and supporting Terms of Reference need to be updated to reflect the current requirements of all parties and a process established to ensure they are subject to regular review.
- 4.2 Proper performance arrangements also need to be established for the service that involves regular reporting to all partners against more relevant, agreed targets. A more equitable basis for funding the service is being sought, based on service use.
- 4.3 The parties to this agreement are Southend Borough Council and Southend Clinical Commissioning Group.

5. Background

5.1 The Southend Integrated Equipment Service is based in a large leased unit on the temple Farm Industrial Estate in Southend. The large industrial unit provides storage and recycling facilities for disability aids such as hoists, commodes, walking frames and it has office facilities for the back office staff. The unit also provides office and clinical assessment rooms for South Essex Partnership Trust Occupational Therapists and the Wheelchair Service who share the lease.

5.2 The broad aims of the service are to provide the delivery of a single, integrated community long and short term equipment provision, Telecare and a minor adaptations service for people of all ages who live in and receive health and/or social care from Southend on Sea because of illness, physical or sensory disability or age related physical impairment.

The service also proactively collects and recycles its equipment. The service cleans and refurbishes items so that they can be loaned again and has specialist cleaning facilities to do this.

5.3 The broad outcomes of providing the service are:

- prevention of hospital admission
- facilitation of discharge from hospital
- enabling independent living
- improved level of function of quality of life.

5.4 For 2015/16 the Southend Integrated Equipment Service:

Delivered 23,592 items of equipment to 5,216 Southend residents. To do this the driver/technicians undertook 9,725 visits to the client's home.

The value of the equipment delivered was: £953,574.86p

The value of the equipment returned/recycled was: £916,717.47p

6. Current position

6.1 A task and finish group has been established that involves key operational, commissioning and financial representatives from Southend Borough Council, Southend Clinical Commissioning Group and South Essex Partnership Trust.

It has met on five occasions since November 2016 and has:

- established the demand for the service
- reviewed the list of standard equipment and withdrawn items that are not fit for purpose or not used and added some modern items that operate more efficiently and save carers time/personnel to operate
- agreed to formulate a partnership board to oversee and monitor performance and quality
- agreed on the frequency of partnership board meetings
- agreed a suite of key performance indicators

- negotiated a pooled funding arrangement and review mechanism within the partnership board
 - integrated the supply of NHS continuing healthcare equipment and made arrangement for the NHS to fund this in its entirety.
- 6.2 The Better Care Fund Section 75 template is being used as the basis for the Equipment Service agreement and a second draft is being produced that also makes reference to:
- an updated terms of reference and risk management process
 - capturing the views of local residents receiving equipment for further scrutiny at the next meeting on 31st March 2017.
- 6.3 The service is currently on course to have a completed Section 75 agreement by April 2017. However, once complete the agreement will require formal legal approval by SBC and SCCG before executive level scrutiny and final approval can be achieved.

Corporate Implications

7. Financial Implications

Total 2016/17 Equipment Service budget: £883,000

SBC £593,000 (67%)

SCCG £290,000 (33%)

8. Legal Implications

None

9. People Implications

None

10. Property Implications

Lease of unit 8 where the equipment service is located expires in September 2017. Currently, terms are being negotiated with the landlord for a new lease.

11. Consultation

None

12. Equalities Impact Assessment

An Equality Analysis will be undertaken.

13. Value for Money

See 4.4

14. Community Safety Implications

None.

15. Environmental Impact

None.

16. Background Papers

None.