

**23 November 2021**

<b>Title</b>	Step Down Accommodation
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To provide update and to seek approval to extend the arrangements for further 12 months
<b>Report Author</b>	Marta Imig, Strategic Lead, Housing
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Exempt</b>	No
<b>Exemption Reason</b>	<i>n/a</i>
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	Housing
<b>Recommendations</b>	To support officers asking the North West Surrey Health Alliance to continue to commission the Step Down service and Partnership Agreement for a further 12 months from April 2022
<b>Reason for Recommendation</b>	The current Service Level Agreement (SLA) for this service expires at the end of March 2022.

## 1. Key issues

1.1 In April 2021, the Council commenced a partnership Step-Down Service. It was commissioned on behalf of the North West Surrey Health Alliance Board, to deliver practical benefits to healthcare service, working together with partner organisations. The organisations (partners) who deliver the service are Spelthorne Borough Council, A2Dominion, Elmbridge Borough Council, Runnymede Borough Council, The Whitely Homes Trust, Woking Borough Council. Spelthorne are the Lead authority.

1.2 The aim of the service is to provide up to six-weeks short term accommodation for people who require some additional support on discharge from hospital, prior to moving into their own accommodation, or who are identified in the community as requiring a “step-up” accommodation to prevent hospital admission.

1.3 The step-down accommodation for this service is furnished, prepared, and managed by Spelthorne Borough Council (SBC). The funding for this service is provided by The Alliance and managed by SBC, who is responsible for ensuring that the funding is used appropriately. We have 7 properties across Surrey for this service. The properties remain in ownership of the partners and we have a service level agreement, which detail the relationship. In the budget year 2021/22 the funding provided for this service was £299,700. This was designed to cover the rent, council tax and utility charges for the flats, as

well as to cover the cost of staff to administer the scheme, cost of meals, furnishing, cleaning and other expenses as deemed appropriate to support residents as part of this project.

- 1.4 The current agreement for this service end on 31 March 2022, we propose to extend the agreement for a further period of twelve months to continue the service.

## **2. Options analysis and proposal**

### Option 1: Not to agree the proposed extension of the Service

The service would end at the end of March 2022 if this option is chosen. This would add additional pressure to the healthcare system, in particular hospitals.

### Option 2: To approve proposed extension of the service (recommended)

Discussions with North West Surrey Health Board would commence with a view to extend the service and partnership agreement, with associated funding for a further year. This option would be fully paid by the NW Surrey Alliance Board, not by Spelthorne Borough Council.

## **3. Financial implications**

- 3.1 The service is fully funded by North West Surrey Health Alliance and managed by SBC. There is no cost to Spelthorne Borough Council.
- 3.2 Although full budgetary requirements will be assessed at the end of the financial year, we are already identifying savings that can be made as part of the service delivery. We estimate that the project can be delivered within a reduced budget of £235,000 in 2022/23. The funding request will be made to the Alliance Board in January 2022.

## **4. Other considerations**

- 4.1 The project has been a success and provided much needed accommodation to many residents leaving hospital. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 the service had:

### Quarter 1

24 referrals

14 accepted and accommodated

### Quarter 2

26 referrals

13 accepted and accommodated

### Total to date

50 referrals (referrals need to be carefully assessed for meeting the criteria both of the residents and the facilities)

27 accepted and accommodated

We anticipate by the end of the first year there will be between 50-60 residents assisted.

Average length of stay is approx. 38 days.

4.2 The referring organisations in the last quarter (Jul-Sept 2021) were as follows:

Referring Organisation	Column Labels			
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Grand Total
Row Labels				
Hospital ASC Team - Frimley Park		1		1
Hospital ASC Team - St Peters Hospital		2	1	3
Hospital ASC Team - Walton Community Hospital		1	3	4
Hospital ASC Team - Woking Community Team		1	1	2
Hospital Discharge Team - St Peters Hospital	3		1	4
Hospital Discharge Team - Woking Community Hospital	1			1
Locality Team - Spelthorne	3	2		5
Locality Team - Surrey Heath		1		1
Locality Team - Woking	1	1	1	3
Woking Borough Council		1		1
Spelthorne Borough Council			1	1
Grand Total	8	10	8	26

4.3 We strive to continually improve our service and we recognise the areas of the service that work well and the areas that we would like to work to improve. Those are as follows:

#### What works well

- Supporting Hospital discharges
- Reducing bed blocking
- Supporting vulnerable residents to safely return home
- Supporting residents to further rehab/reable in an environment with on-site care
- Enabling residents to see an alternative option from their home environment
- Ensuring residents own homes are safe to return to, often issues such as; No heating, No electricity, No Hot water, Hoarded, Pest infestation can be resolved whilst residents are in "step down accommodation".

### Areas to improve

- Turnaround of the scheme ready to re-use (cleaning of the flat)
- Quality of the information about the patient for the discharge
- Confirmation of acceptance in a scheme due to care staff availability and rotas
- Hospital transport delays
- Temporary GP registrations

## **5. Equality and Diversity**

5.1 An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out – enclosed in Appendix A.

## **6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications**

6.1 The proposed Step Down service itself does not have any impact on the Council's sustainability / climate change position.

## **7. Timetable for implementation**

7.1 If supported, we would enter negotiations with North West Surrey Health Alliance Board in January 2022 with a view to extend the service and partnership agreement for further 12 months.

7.2 If agreed, the service will continue without interruption.

**Background papers: There are none.**