

## Cabinet

11 October 2018

### Transfer of Community Dietetics Service

#### Recommendations

- 1) That Cabinet approves the payment of the £700,000 annual budget (pro-rated for 1 November 2018 to 31 March 2019) for the Community Dietetics Service to South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group (SWCCG) for the full delivery of the Community Dietetics Service under SWCCG's Out of Hospital Services (OoH) contract until 31 March 2021
- 2) That Cabinet approves the joint management of the Community Dietetics Service element of the OoH contract by SW CCG and Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Public Health and Strategic Commissioning
- 3) That the Strategic Director of the People Group be authorised to agree and execute an agreement under Section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2006 on terms and conditions acceptable to the Joint Managing Director (Resources).

#### 1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 The Community Dietetics Service is an integral part of the Dietetics Service currently provided by South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT) which includes treatment, specialist advice, training and education for adults and children. The Dietetics Service is comprised of a Community Dietetics Service commissioned by WCC and an Acute Dietetics Service commissioned by SW CCG. The Community Dietetics Service has undergone a full commissioning review in collaboration with Warwickshire's three clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to ensure it is fit for purpose.
- 1.2 The current contract arrangements for the Dietetics Service are split between SW CCG and WCC. SW CCG is responsible for commissioning and managing the contract for the Acute Dietetic Service (inpatient) on behalf of the CCGs across Warwickshire. WCC commissions and manages the contract for the Dietetic Community Service (outpatient) across the county. SWFT is the provider of the WCC and the SW CCG contracts comprising the Dietetics Service. The WCC contract with SWFT for the Dietetic Community Service ends on 31st October 2018.
- 1.3 When the SW CCG's Out of Hospital (OoH) services contract was recently commissioned, the Community Dietetic Service was included within the scope of the OoH services contract. The OoH contract was awarded to SWFT for a

3 year term from 1 April 2018 and is managed by SW CCG for all three Warwickshire CCGs.

- 1.4 With the exception of the Community Dietetics Service, all other community based services included within the scope of the OoH contract are commissioned by SWCCG on behalf of all the Warwickshire CCGs and delivered by SWFT across the county.
- 1.5 The logistics of disaggregating the Community Dietetics element of the Dietetics Service to tender the service separately would be very challenging and costly and therefore difficult to justify for the following reasons:
  - The Dietetics Service is currently managed as one team and staff work across both the Acute and Community Service elements
  - Staff specialise in different areas of dietetics across the Acute and Community elements
  - Patient referrals are managed within one service

## **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that SW CCG takes on responsibility for contracting all elements of the Dietetics Service including the Community elements as part of SW CCG's OoH service contract and that SW CCG and WCC Public Health and Strategic Commissioning jointly monitor the delivery of the community element of the Dietetics Service. As set out above at paragraph 1.3, the scope of the OoH contract that was awarded to SWFT, following a procurement process, includes the provision of the Community Dietetic Service. Therefore, no further procurement process, and no variation of the OoH contract, would be required should the current proposal be approved. Prior to the procurement of the OoH contract, WCC and SWCCG agreed that it would be desirable for the Community Dietetic Service to be included within the scope of the OoH contract to enable the Dietetics Service to be commissioned and managed as a whole.
- 2.2 The proposal is to pay the full budget for Community Dietetics to SW CCG through a Section 75 agreement for the remainder of the OoH contract. For the avoidance of doubt, the full budget for the remainder of the 2018/2019 financial year would be pro-rated. The Section 75 agreement will enable joint management and monitoring of the service under a partnership arrangement and pooled budgets. This will ensure a more joined-up approach to planning and commissioning across out-of-hospital care and support efforts to deliver more integrated, person-centred care.
- 2.3 As part of the section 75 agreement it is proposed that a funding contribution cap be implemented to alleviate any risk that WCC will be asked to pay anything above the £700,000 annual payment. In conjunction with SW CCG the service will also be reviewed annually to identify whether any efficiency savings can be made. There is an expectation that over the next 18 months patient activity to the Community Dietetics Service will reduce as more patients will be referred to other prevention services such as Fitter Futures

and the National Diabetes Prevention Programme resulting in potential savings.

2.4 The benefits of transferring the contractual arrangements for the Community Dietetics Service to SW CCG include:

- Community Dietetics can continue to be delivered alongside other community service within community hubs closer to home reducing the risk of non-attendance at clinics
- Better monitoring of patients pathway from acute to community to ensure the best outcome is achieved for patients and the service
- Facilitated discharge from Secondary Care and admission avoidance
- Referral of patients to other services within the OoH contract which might be more appropriate to patients needs
- Identify potential savings through shared administration and with other services located within the OoH contract
- Reduction of management overheads with the bringing together all community services under one contract
- Rationalisation of all community service within the OoH contract will ensure the service is fit for purpose

2.5 The risks of tendering the Community Dietetics service and the potential for a private provider to be awarded the contract include:

- Disaggregation of the Dietetics service leading to confusion amongst patients
- Disruption to patient pathway resulting in loss of confidence of patients, an increase in non-attendance at clinics and poorer outcomes for patients
- Risk of staff leaving and affecting business continuity
- Increase costs in management and administration and hiring of premises
- Potential issues with data sharing agreement between NHS and private provider regarding patient records
- Rationalisation of all community services within the OoH contract will not be achieved

### 3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

Action	Date	Responsible Officer
Section 75 agreement is drawn up for transfer of budget to SW CCG	1st October 2018	Sue Wild/Michaela Meeraus
Cabinet approval for section 75 agreement	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	Sue Wild
Section 75 agreement signed	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2018	Sue Wild/John Linnane
Transfer of Community Dietetics budget to SW CCG	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2018	Sue Wild/Stephanie Jones
Joint management arrangements in place	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2018	Sue Wild
Report to HOSC as required	Ongoing	Sue Wild

### Background papers

1. Briefing Paper: Prevention developments in support of the STP/The Better Care Fund and Out Of Hospital commissioning plans for Warwickshire using a prevention based approach - Prepared by: Fran Poole/Kate Woolley, Warwickshire County Council Public Health. Date: 31 August 2016
2. Service Specification: South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust Community Dietetics Service 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Sue Wild	<a href="mailto:suewild@warwickshire.gov.uk">suewild@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01926 731494
Assistant Director	John Linanne	<a href="mailto:johnlinanne@warwickshire.gov.uk">johnlinanne@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Strategic Director	Nigel Minns	<a href="mailto:nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk">nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Les Caborn	<a href="mailto:lescaborn@warwickshire.gov.uk">lescaborn@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Members: N/A

Other Members: Councillors Caborn, Seccombe, Golby, Parsons, Redford, Rolfe