

## **Draft Equalities Impact Assessment 2022/2023**

### **Social Care Savings Proposals**

#### **Continuous improvement of support - savings proposals of £0.8m**

This proposal will have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics as the proposal focuses on reviewing community support and ensuring the right support is provided and building on work undertaken in this financial year.

Improvement of support will be achieved by enhancing access to the appropriate care at the right time, as well as challenging and reassessing NHS Continuing Health Care to ensure that where residents need health care it is provided by the NHS. Residents will be supported in regaining or maintaining independence by redesigning reablement services and making use of digital technology to assist in accessing our range of services. Additionally, we will procure quality, good value for money, care and support.

Finally, we will ensure engagement with residents effectively by developing a Health and Wellbeing Strategy and by continuing to co-produce our Living Independently webpage.

This proposal has various EIA characteristics:

Hospital discharge characteristics will ensure health services are provided where needed through NHS Continuing Health Care funding. This will improve the rehabilitation and reablement provided following hospital discharge, so people regain their independence as soon as possible.

Value for Money characteristics will ensure negotiation across markets.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Independent Living webpage will identify and mitigate any wider inequalities and learning from Covid-19. This will be co-produced with residents.

#### **Improve access to and support provided from our front door- savings proposal of £0.7m**

This proposal will have a positive impact on those with protected characteristics.

We will improve access to and support provided from our front of house by building on the success of the work of Conversation Matters (preventative support). Additionally, we will improve access to services/support and information for residents and make better use of digital technology. Through a review with NHS colleagues we will improve the hospital discharge pathway into the community. Finally, we will ensure the inclusion of specialist services in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) via the co-location of agencies (the police and mental health to begin with) to respond to safeguarding concerns in a more informed and responsive way by sharing information quickly.

This proposal has the following EIA characteristics:

The Conversation Matters programme has seen early positive engagement with residents from all protected characteristics, picking areas for improvement feeding into ongoing engagement and coproduction activity.

The Council's use of digital technology to enhance independent living/widen access for residents through use of the web based digital portal alongside other channels leads to greater empowerment of residents.

Improvement of the hospital discharge pathway will help to ensure those with protected characteristics have equal access at the right time to health care.

The MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) inclusion of specialist services will improve the timely response to safeguarding concerns by all agencies involved.

The earlier involvement of occupational therapists and skilled practitioners will avoid more intensive interventions later.

### **Social Care investment and Covid-19**

The following investments will have a positive impact due to the total additional funding of £3.704m that will result in additional resources for Social Care.

### **Demographic pressures in social care – £1.326m**

The Social Care budget is under severe pressure due to an ageing population and increasingly complex needs resulting from learning disabilities and mental health issues. As people age their needs become more complex or their informal care arrangements often break down, as unpaid carers can no longer support their relatives and friends.

These demographic pressures need to be factored into Social Care service plans, as they represent a clear cost pressure that will impact on services. Whilst the numbers receiving support from the Council may not increase significantly, the cost of care packages will increase reflecting more complex needs, including supporting individual in their own homes. For H&F demographic pressures relating to the increased numbers of older and disabled people requiring Social Care are forecast to be an average of 1.79% increase over the period 2021 to 2025 which equates in monetary terms to a cumulative total of £5.558m over this period.

### **People with Learning Disabilities (LD) transitioning to adult social care - £0.411m**

Additional funding is required for the LD budgets to fund the increasing number of disabled children transitioning into adult services. There are several factors causing cost pressures in LD which include:

- Increasing volumes of disabled children transitioning into adult services reflecting the fact that more children with significant disabilities live to become adults
- Increasing acuity of need
- As people with LD age, so does the age of parents who can no longer provide the care and support they used to, which results in increased demand for social care.
- Increasing numbers of care packages/direct payments against LD budget for those not meeting LD but having assessed needs relating to their autism.

For one-year £0.411m will have to fund 11 new residents.

### **Hospital discharges - £1.824m**

Patients discharged from hospital since 19 March 2020, whose discharge support package has been paid for by the NHS, will need to be assessed and moved to core NHS, social care or self-funding arrangements. Therefore, we have increasing costs and acuity as discharges made from hospital into health settings are reassessed into the social care market. The financial consequences are likely to be more significant in 2022/23 with a full year impact estimated at £1.824m.

### **Mental Health associated with Long Covid - £0.143m**

Social care is anticipating an increase in the demand for people with mental health issues from Long Covid. Studies have shown that about one in four people who experience Long Covid could develop a mental health and additional care needs. Long Covid might affect things like a person's quality of life or ability to work.

### **Public Health Savings Proposals**

#### **Children and Families reframe and redesign of 0-19 Public Health Nursing Services- Proposed Savings £0.120m**

Savings will come from better procurement of the 0-19 healthy child programme. The savings proposed are contractual, generating efficiencies without affecting health outcomes. Elements of the service are required by law and outcomes are reported and monitored by Public Health England through the public health outcomes framework. This proposal will have a positive equalities impact.

#### **Behaviour change reframe and redesign support- proposed savings £0.050m**

This proposal will have a neutral impact on those with protected characteristics as health checks will continue to be provided to all residents aged 40+ years meeting the mandatory requirement for this offer.

We have good take up of health checks in the borough compared to other boroughs in London. The comparative price is the only element being reviewed following benchmarking.

**Public Health reinvestment - proposed reinvestment £0.170m**

The proposal, given the ongoing pandemic, is to reinvest all the proposed savings from Public Health into supporting residents around food poverty, health inequalities and substance misuse. This proposal will have a positive impact as the resources are re-invested back into the various services.