

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
DECISION**



DECISION OF: DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

WITH ADVICE FROM: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & S151 OFFICER

DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE

DECISION NO: 012

S256 AGREEMENT- INTEGRATED CARE ENABLING ACTIVITIES

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON: Decision has consequences in excess of £500,000

BACKGROUND

An opportunity has arisen for the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to transfer funds to the Council under Section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006. Section 256 of the Act gives powers to CCGs to transfer funding to local authorities for expenditure incurred or to be incurred by them in connection with any social services functions.

The programme of expenditure is intended to support the implementation of the BNSSG Healthier Together Single System Plan, including supporting the transition and restoration of services impacted significantly by the Covid pandemic, through alignment of a number of key priority areas which benefit the population of BNSSG. It will seek to improve the financial sustainability of both the NHS and Local Authority and meet the strategic goals of health, public health and social care commissioners. In particular, it will involve looking across the Healthier Together work programme to make targeted investments which improve integration.

The key outcomes required are to reduce demand and growth for secondary healthcare, such as avoidable planned and unplanned admissions and referrals to specialist mental and physical health hospitals as well as increasing independence and reducing demand and growth for social care.

The programme will use evidence-based interventions and benchmarking to target investment in areas where value for money in NHS services will be delivered as well as delivering additional savings for public health and social care commissioned services.

Of particular note is that the fund will underwrite any ongoing Social Care costs of Discharge to Assess services during Quarters 1 and 2 of 2021/22, that were approved for Winter 2021/22 surge plan that cannot otherwise be reimbursed by any continuing Government Hospital Discharge Funding.

DECISION

To agree to enter into a Section 256 Agreement with the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the final details of which will be signed off by the Chief Executive or the s151 Officer.

REASON

To fund a programme of investment and services designed to improve integration, reduce demand the growth for secondary health care and social care, and improve independence for individuals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The agreement will lead to the transfer of funding from the CCG to Bristol City Council. The final amount has yet to be agreed, but is likely to be at least £10.1m. Some commitments from the fund will be agreed at the point that the agreement is signed (such as the extension of funding for Discharge to Assess); other schemes will be agreed on approval of a business case. The approval process will be established and agreed by the Healthier Together Executive Group.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The decision is being made in accordance with Section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSULTATION

This proposal has been the subject of significant internal consultation between senior officers within the CCG and the Council and will also go through the CCG's decision-making processes.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The agreement will contain a clause that will require any unspent funding at the end of the 2021/22 financial year to be returned to the CCG.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

The transfer of funding is likely to lead to increased benefits for vulnerable people including reduced hospital admissions, shorter lengths of stay in hospital and increased independence leading to a lesser requirement for social care.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None, other than those already highlighted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Draft Section 256 Agreement.

SIGNATORIES

DECISION MAKER

Note: If electronic signature used email from Director confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached.

Director of Adult Social Care

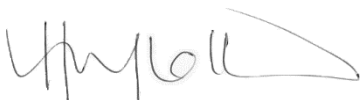
Title: Director of Adult Social Care

Signed: 

Date: 25 March 2021


Consultees

Title: Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Signed: 

Date: 25 March 2021

Title: Deputy Mayor Finance, Governance and Performance

Signed: 

Date: 25 March 2021

Title: Deputy Section 151 Officer

Signed: 

Date: 25 March 2021

Note: If electronic signature used email from the relevant certifier confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached. If consultation undertaken verbally Director must record date and time of the conversation and any agreement/concerns raised by consultee.