

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on 10 January 2018 by the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

Date notified to all members: Thursday 11 January 2018

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on Wednesday 17 January 2018

Unless called-in, the decision can be implemented from Thursday 18 January 2018

1. **TITLE**

Procurement of Medication Administration Record Service

2. **DECISION TAKEN**

That the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care:-

(i) approves the development and agreement of a procurement strategy for the provision of a Medication Administration Record Service; and

(ii) delegates authority to the Director for Adults Services in consultation with the Director of Finance and Commercial Services to award a contract and complete all the necessary documentation for the commissioning of the service as outlined within the report.

3. **Reasons For Decision**

The described proposal is the preferred option as it will help to maintain the safety of vulnerable citizens and avoid disruption to what remains a relatively fragile home care market.

By implementing the proposal it is intended that the following outcomes will be achieved:

- Community pharmacists will continue to provide MAR charts and it will be financially and operationally viable for them to do so.
- The governance supporting the provision of MAR charts will be strengthened.
- There will be a consistent approach to the provision of MAR charts for service users across the city.
- The Council will support best practice in the regard and act as a leader within the local social care sector.

A safe 'holding position' is created, allowing time for the Medication Policy for Home Support to be comprehensively reviewed and revised, and options for further improving medication governance to be explored.

4. Alternatives Considered And Rejected

The following alternative options have been considered:

a) Do nothing

In practice this is not an acceptable option. Pharmacists clearly stated that they would stop producing MAR charts if a resolution was not implemented. Further to the assurances given by Phil Holmes they agreed to continue as an interim measure, on this agreement that payment will be backdated to April 2017.

To take no action now would renege on the formal assurances provided. Furthermore, it would place service users at greater risk of medication errors and cause disruption within the home care market.

b) Implement an electronic alternative

There are a number of electronic MAR systems on the market which have the potential to improve administration of medication, record keeping and accountability.

However, there are a number of technical, operational and financial implications which need to be fully understood before this option can be pursued. It is not, therefore, feasible to undertake this option at the present time, however there is potential to do so at a later date, following the implementation of the MAR Service in its proposed form.

c) Rewrite the Sheffield Medication Policy for Home Support, removing the requirement for MAR charts

For the reasons described in section 1 of the report, in terms of the legislative context, safety of service users and stability of the home care market, this option was also discounted.

5. Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

6. Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Director of Adult Services

7. Relevant Scrutiny Committee If Decision Called In

Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee