



## Report to Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Report of:** Policy and Improvement Officer

**Subject:** Written responses to public questions

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### Summary:

This report provides the Committee with copies of written responses to public questions asked at the Committee's meetings on 27th November 2019, and 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

The written responses are included as part of the Committee's meeting papers as a means of placing the responses on the public record.

**Type of item:** The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	<b>X</b>

### The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report

**Background Papers:** None

**Category of Report:** OPEN

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## **1 Question from Steve Hambleton, Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind**

*“This question relates to the proposal to change the way the council pays care home fees currently paying the net contribution to care homes changing to gross contribution.*

*As the owner and operator of Cairn Home at Crosspool, we are concerned about the negative cash flow implications of this change. Currently we collect our fees from the resident by weekly direct debit but the council pay every 4 weeks, 2 weeks in advance, 2 weeks in arrears. Whilst this will have a negative impact upon our cash flow this will be minor compared to what happens when a new resident is admitted with it frequently taking many months before any payment is received from the council. In the last year we have had one resident where it was over 6 months before a payment was received. Under the current system at least we have the money from the resident coming in each week.*

*From the council’s perspective you are looking at an annual cost of £715,000 to implement this change at a time when the council is under severe financial pressure and if this money is available we would suggest that it could be more effectively spent on increasing the gross care home fees, not making a negative impact on the cash flow of care homes.”*

### **Response**

Thank you for submitting a question to the last meeting of the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, and apologies for the delay in responding.

As agreed at the meeting, we have followed up your question with the relevant service, who have provided a response.

Regarding your concerns relating to the negative impact of the change on cash flow - the service is currently gathering information from care providers with regards to invoicing periods and payment terms. They will take into consideration the impact on the marketplace of this change, and work with providers to minimise disruption for residents and providers.

On the issue of delays in paying for newly placed residents - the service is sorry that this is an issue, and acknowledges that there can be delays in the first payment for a placement. Work is ongoing to resolve this issue and reduce incidents of delay.

On the issue you raise regarding the council using the money this change will cost to increase the rate paid for care - the service has informed us that Sheffield City Council is considering a move from paying care homes net to gross to support compliance with legislation and best practice. The change is necessary to better support residents, and ensure that we are compliant with the Statutory Guidance on the Care Act.

I hope this information is helpful – please get back to me if you feel that there are any outstanding issues relating to your question.

## **2. Question from Michael Briscoe, Direct Payment Solutions**

*“Request put to the committee, to re-open the Money Management List (MML) to allow alternative companies to provide services to Direct Payment recipients in relation to manage budgets on behalf of Direct Payment recipients.*

*The List has been closed for over a years period and I request the list be opened to allow market competition and improved service for direct payment recipients”*

### **Response**

Thanks for attending the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee to ask your question relating to the Money Management List.

We have followed this up with the service. They have told us that they are currently reviewing various items regarding Direct Payments, one of the aspects of this review is consideration of the position of managed account companies and the Recognised Provider List (RPL). A Commissioning Manager has been recruited to lead this review. The service has assured us that they will include your comments in the briefing for the incoming officer, who is expected to be in post by April. It is intended that the review will be complete by April 2021 but changes will be made during this period where there are immediate improvements that are identified. The review of money management arrangements will be prioritised within the review.

Please get back to me if you feel there are any outstanding issues relating to your question.

## **3 Question from Jeremy Short, Sheffield Save Our NHS**

*‘What action is the Scrutiny Committee considering taking over the continued closure of the Hadfield Ward of the Northern General Hospital and the loss of 168 beds?’*

### **Response**

Thanks very much for attending the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> January to ask your question on the closure of the Hadfield Building at the Northern General, and the impact of related bed losses.

As explained at the meeting, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust informed us that the beds lost to due to the closure were reprovided across the rest of the Trust’s estate, and two modular wards were built at the Northern General to provide additional capacity for winter pressures and contingencies. The winter

plan was delivered as planned, and there was no adverse impact on service delivery.

We followed up the additional points you raised at the meeting, around timelines for re-opening the ward, and costs and have received the following response from the Trust:

*Work is underway on the rectification works required on the Hadfield Building at the Northern General Hospital. We do not currently have a date when we will resume patient care in the building at the moment because this will depend on when the Fire Authority are satisfied all the appropriate conditions are met. Our priority will be patient safety over anything else. We are not paying for the repairs or the unitary charge payment and we have continued to deliver care as usual to our patients using other appropriate accommodation across the Trust and two new wards which opened in December.*

We have asked the Trust to keep us up to date with progress, and will pass any information that we receive on to you.

If you have any further queries relating to this response, please do not hesitate to get in touch. A copy of this response will be published with the next set of the Committee's agenda papers.

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