

## **Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012**

### **Notice under Regulation 11: Key Decisions taken in cases of Special Urgency**

Pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 ('the Regulations'), **I hereby give Notice** that:-

The Leader intends to make a Key Decision on behalf of the Sheffield City Council about the procurement of community beds ( care homes) to support hospital discharge

This decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred. Consequently it has not been possible to give 5 clear days' notice of the intention to make the Key Decision, as required by Regulation 10 of the Regulations.

The reasons why the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred are as follows:-

The procurement recommended is urgent and accelerated. The programme would have invitations sent to prospective providers on 12 November, so that the first tranche of beds can be available on 22 November 2021. The explanation of the need for this follows.

The health and social care system in Sheffield is facing urgent challenges, rising admissions to hospital are causing a deteriorating and serious situation with a lack of bed capacity and as a result severe delayed discharges. The prediction is that this will only deteriorate over the winter months.

Whilst many of the beds are occupied by those with a clinical need, many of the capacity shortages can be attributed to the increasing numbers of people waiting in hospital for discharge home with reablement or a care package with an independent home care provider. These people will be deemed medically fit for discharge home providing they can access care and support on discharge

The situation with availability of home support in the independent sector is also one which is significant. The increase in demand over the last 2/3 years coupled with full implementation of homefirst during the pandemic, increase acuity of individuals need leading to more care workers needed to support individuals alongside, a continuing shortage of care workers in the sector and lack of investment into social care is now starting to cause increased pressure on the system as a whole. This is a local and national concern. There is a serious lack of homecare available and limited access to this from hospital. Whilst action is being taken to try and increase the capacity and support the workforce, this is unlikely to have a major impact on the delays in the short term or over the winter period.

The lack of available acute beds is such that people have been treated outside of hospital in waiting ambulances. We also know that people waiting

in hospital to go home are more likely to deteriorate and decompensate, with the risk of infection increasing.

Although home first remains the overriding principle, the situation is such that other urgent options are needed to relieve the pressure both in the short term and for any surge in demand for acute care that is likely to happen over the winter months.

The only viable option left is to consider alternative accommodation with care where people can stay for a short period of time pending availability of care at home. This is thought to be the “least – worst “ ( better than any alternative) option

**Gillian Duckworth**  
**Director of Legal and Governance**  
**Sheffield City Council**

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***For inclusion in published version only***

As required by Regulation 11 of the Regulations, the Chair of the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee has been informed of the matter about which the Key Decision is to be made by being given the above Notice, and has agreed that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.

Pursuant to Regulation 11 (2) this Copy of the Notice was made available at Sheffield Town Hall for inspection by the public and published on the Council's website on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

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**Scrutiny Chair's version only: not for inclusion in published version**

I confirm receipt of this Notice. I agree that the intended decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred.



Signed: ..... Date: 15 November 2021  
Chair of Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and  
Policy Development Committee