

Health Scrutiny Review Matrix

Review Topic: Continuing Health Care (CHC)

Timescale:

Start: April 2022

Finish: September 2022

Review Rationale:

Continuing Health Care (CHC) is a package of care for adults aged 18 or over, which is arranged and funded solely by the NHS. In order to receive CHC funding, individuals have to be assessed by the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) according to a legally prescribed decision making process to determine whether the individual has a 'primary health need'. CHC covers the full cost of care and residential accommodation for those entitled to it on the basis of disability, accident or illness.

Concerns have been raised about the assessment process and rate of CHC award to West Berkshire residents through public questions submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board. There has been also been a request for the Health Scrutiny Committee to look at this.

Considerations of the review would include:

- What is the experience of local carers in West Berkshire when applying for CHC?
- How does the number of people assessed as being eligible for CHC awards by Berkshire West CCG compare to that in other CCG areas (particularly those with comparable health profiles) and how does it differ within Berkshire West?
- How does the Berkshire West CCG interpret national guidance on CHC?
- What steps has the CCG taken to ensure that its approach to assessment is correct and consistent with that of other CCGs?
- What steps has the CCG taken to make the application process as simple and as possible for applicants?
- What will the arrangements be for assessing CHC applications from July 2022 when the CCG is integrated into the Integrated Care System?
- What alternative support is made available to carers whose CHC applications are unsuccessful?
- What communications are in place to make carers aware of CHC and alternative options?

Terms of Reference:

The Task and Finish Group will:

1. Form an understanding of the CHC process, the types of awards available and any alternative options for carers to access funding in the event of their CHC application being unsuccessful.
2. Analyse national data around CHC awards to see how West Berkshire compares to other areas in terms of the number of people eligible for each type of CHC award and how quickly applications are processed.
3. Collect evidence from local carers with experience of applying for CHC. This will be done by holding facilitated meetings with local carer groups and / or online surveys. Healthwatch West Berkshire may be used to support this.
4. Ascertain whether any independent assessment / benchmarking takes place within the CCG to validate the local interpretation of the national guidance and associated processes.
5. Understand the implications for CHC assessments once the CCG is integrated into the ICS in July 2022.
6. Understand what joint working has been done by the CCG and West Berkshire Council's Adult Social Care Service around funding of care for those whose CHC applications are unsuccessful.
7. Review what has been done already to help local people to access CHC. For example, this could be communications around the package itself and support with the application process.
8. Consider any other relevant reviews that have taken place for example by other Local Authorities Health Scrutiny Committees in Berkshire West.

Members will collate their findings which will then form the basis of a report to be considered by the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Review Membership:

Membership of the Task and Finish Group will be agreed by the Health Scrutiny Committee on 05 April 2022.

Councillor
Councillor
Councillor
Councillor

Chairman: TBC**Vice-Chairman:** TBC**Lead Officer:** Vicky Phoenix

Information Required:

- Information on CHC awards and the assessment process
- Data on applications / approvals / rejections for West Berkshire / Berkshire West and benchmarking data from other CCGs including those from Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.
- Interviews with individual patients / carers and representative groups
- Interview with the Berkshire West CCG
- Reviews undertaken by other Health Scrutiny Committees

Witnesses:

- Patients / carers with experience of the CHC process.
- Groups representing patients / carers with experience of the CHC process
- Healthwatch West Berkshire
- Berkshire West CCG
- West Berkshire Adult Social Care