

Appendix A

Review Topic: Continuing Healthcare funding arrangements in West Berkshire.

Timescale
Start: 17 Jan
2012
Finish:

Review Rationale:

To identify why patients in Berkshire receive some of the lowest levels of Continuing Healthcare funding compared to other Primary Care Trusts nationally and to understand the impact on both residents and West Berkshire Council service provision.

Terms of Reference: To conduct a review into the Continuing Healthcare funding received by West Berkshire residents and in particular to determine:

- What process is followed in awarding Continuing Healthcare funding, what barriers exist and are all groups equally able to access the required funding to meet their needs?
- The role of the Continuing Healthcare Guidance, the Checklist, Decision Support Tool and the Multi-Disciplinary Team in agreeing funding awards.
- The current levels of demand for Continuing Healthcare funding, the trend over the last 5 years and potential future pressures.
- An understanding of the financial implications to West Berkshire Council of the existing Continuing Healthcare funding process.
- To consider what might be done to further improve the process to reduce inequalities in the determination of funding awards.
- Report to both the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Executive and to make a series of final recommendations, as appropriate, to the NHS Berkshire and the South Central Strategic Health Authority.

Review Membership:

Councillor Quentin Webb
Councillor Gwen Mason

Councillor Howard Bairstow
Councillor Dominic Boeck
Councillor Sheila Ellison
Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge
Councillor Tony Linden
Councillor Alan Macro

Chairman: Councillor Quentin Webb

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Gwen Mason

Scrutiny Officer: Jo Naylor

Questions for Charles Waddicor (Chief Executive) NHS Berkshire

Scrutiny Review of Continuing Healthcare Funding

1. How can the PCT explain the inconsistency in approach whereby only 3.3 per 10,000 patients receive Continuing Healthcare funding in the NHS Berkshire area when as many as 29.3 people per 10,000 receive funding in other parts of the country?
2. (a) What budget build process has been taken and has there been a policy decision taken around the Continuing Healthcare budget to bring down budget spends?

(b) What has been the expenditure on Continuing Healthcare over the last 5 years?
3. How many individuals are in receipt of Continuing Healthcare funding, year on year, and what are the implications for West Berkshire Council?
4. How many applications are submitted for Continuing Healthcare funding and how many of these are successfully awarded funding each year?
5. On what grounds can the NHS Continuing Healthcare Checklist be declined?
6. How many NHS Continuing Healthcare Checklists are received and how many go on to have a full assessment completed?
7. For those patients that require "Fast Track" care due to the urgency of their needs, and where the form is appropriately completed by a clinician, how many of these have been declined Continuing Healthcare funding and on what grounds have these decisions been made?
8. Are all types of patient (e.g. End of Life, Learning Disabilities, those with complex needs) equally eligible for Continuing Healthcare funding?
9. How many cases being assessed for Continuing Healthcare funding take longer than the 28-day statutory time period to determine the application?