

West Sussex County Council

Urgent Action

The following key decision has been taken under the urgent action procedure by the Director of Law and Assurance, in agreement with the relevant officer and relevant Committee Chairman.

Regulation 11: Members are asked to note that as this is a key decision it should have been included in the Forward Plan for the required 28 days. It was, however, not possible to do so and agreement to the decision has been obtained from the relevant Committee Chairman and notice has been given to the public.

Decision Title & Ref No:	Mental Health Discharge to Assess Contract Extensions OKD71 20/21
Officer responsible for Decision	Tony Kershaw - Director of Law and Assurance
Officer responsible for Function	Keith Hinkley – Executive Director Adults and Health
Decision published	31 March 2021
West Sussex Plan priority	A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place
Electoral Divisions	All Divisions
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose	<p>The Mental Health Discharge to Assess service (D2A) supports working age adults to be discharged from acute mental health hospitals in a safe and timely manner. The Council commissions this service and is fully recompensed by Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT). D2A has evidenced excellent outcomes for West Sussex residents and mental health systems, whilst supporting the pandemic response by minimising delays to hospital discharges. Local health and social care leaders support extending D2A and this paper seeks authority for a 6-month extension of these arrangements.</p> <p>Due to Covid-19 there have been different and shorter-term funding arrangements in place within NHS England (NHSE) which has impacted the ability of the local system to confirm funding into 2021/22. In the absence of this guidance SPFT has made a commitment to cover the costs of services for the first 6 months of the year. This funding decision has only been communicated very recently which has restricted the ability to take decisions sooner.</p>
Decision	The Director of Law & Assurance, with the agreement of the Executive Director Adults and Health and the Chairman of the Health and Adults Social Care Scrutiny Committee, has used his delegated powers under Standing Order 5.23 and has approved a 6 month extension of the Mental Health Discharge to Assess service from 1 st April 2021.

Interest and nature of interest declared	None
Reason for urgency	This decision is urgent as the council has received short notice of a 6 month extension of funding through the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and need to therefore extend the contracts that end very soon (31/03/21).
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Background Papers	See report for details