
Report of Urgent Action: Regulation 19

- 1** Under regulation 19 of the The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 the County Council is required to receive a report from the Leader on any decisions taken under regulation 11. These are key decisions which were not in the Forward Plan and which needed to be taken with less than five clear days' notice. Such urgent decisions can only be taken with the agreement of the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman or, in his or her absence, the Chairman of the County Council.
- 2** Such action is avoided wherever possible as it circumvents the normal mechanism for publication of decisions for ensuring that members have the opportunity to comment before decisions are taken.
- 3** However, on occasion this was not possible and the County Council is asked to note the following decisions which have been taken by the appropriate decision-maker, in consultation with the relevant members.

Adult Social Care Discharge Funding

- 4** The County Council and the Sussex Integrated Care Board (ICB) are commissioning services to support acute general hospital discharge and address workforce pressures in health and social care. These services will be funded through the national Adult Social Care Discharge Fund, of which £10.5m has been allocated to the ICB and £2.753m to the County Council, available up until 31 March 2023.
- 5** Commissioned services will be in line with grant funding guidance, which states that the fund is to be used flexibly focusing on initiatives that will enable the discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for ongoing care, including mental health in-patient settings. The County Council plans to extend and vary existing contracts as well as procure newly commissioned provision and include a mixture of care to be provided within a person's own home, as well as within residential and nursing services. Funding will also be used to increase adult social care workforce capacity. A planned spending report was submitted to Department for Health and Social Care in December with fortnightly activity reporting required from 30 December 2022.
- 6** The Cabinet Member for Adults Services, with the agreement of the Director of Law and Assurance and the Chairman of the County Council in the absence of the Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, has approved a decision, published on 9 December 2022, to start procurement arrangements for additional care provision to enable the health and social care system to meet the conditions of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund up until 31 March 2023. Authority has been delegated to the Director of Adults and Health to extend and vary existing contracts and award contracts for newly commissioned provision as may be required to meet the proposals and to the Director of Adults and Health to extend and vary contracts procured through this process, should funding be forthcoming for hospital discharge beyond the end date of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund, into 2023/2024 and should the services continue to be required and commission residential care provision on behalf of the ICB, funded through reimbursement to the Council of £1.131m from the £10.5m ICB allocation of Adult Social Care Discharge Funds.

7 The matter needed to be taken urgently for the following reasons:

- The allocation of funds was confirmed on 18 November, with a spending plan submission required within four weeks followed by fortnightly reporting from the 30 December and funds spent by 31 March 2023.
- Agreement to proceed was needed urgently in order that the plan could be confirmed to DHSC having had approval through key decision. In addition, an urgent decision was required so that a tender exercise and implement provision can be undertaken quickly.
- Completing the decision as a matter of urgency gave more opportunity to start to get some provision committed and starting to be provided over the Christmas and New Year period when pressures in hospitals will be very high.

Broadbridge Heath Regeneration Scheme: Power Supply Agreement

- 8** The current project for the Broadbridge Heath highway depot will utilise the County Council-owned asset to deliver economic regeneration of the site, through development of a retail park. The project will benefit the community, delivering a new retail park, employment opportunity and generate a return on investment.
- 9** The Assistant Director (Property and Assets), with the agreement of the Director of Law and Assurance and the Chairman of the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee, has approved the expenditure to secure a contract for supply power supply for the Broadbridge Heath development site. The decision was published on 20 January 2023.
- 10** The matter needed to be decided urgently as the supplier imposed a very short response time for the commitment from the Council after which the contract terms would not have been available.

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