Consultation on the future provision of social care for older people and adults with physical disabilities

Background

Ensuring Staffordshire residents receive the best possible care in their homes and in their communities is one of Staffordshire County Council’s top priorities.

People in Staffordshire are living longer but not necessarily healthier lives, and as a result more and more people need NHS and social care services.

To promote health and independence and continue to provide good quality services in the future, the county council and the Partnership Trust believe that NHS and social care services need to be joined up. Working together also helps to ensure that care remains affordable.

In April 2012, Staffordshire County Council (the county council) agreed that adult social care services for older people and for people with physical disabilities would be provided on its behalf by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent NHS Partnership Trust (the Partnership Trust).

The services were transferred to the Partnership Trust in a formal process called a Section 75 Agreement.

As part of the agreement, the county council and the Partnership Trust put their money together to provide:

- **Assessment and case management** which determines people’s needs and eligibility for long term care, as well as what they want to achieve from it, and starts the process of planning the support that people might need.

- **Reablement support** which provides a ‘step-up’ or ‘step-down’ service to either prevent hospital admission or help to discharge people who are in hospital. Reablement supports people at home and helps people to regain their independence.

- **Occupational Therapy** which assesses and reviews people who may benefit from equipment and home adaptations.

- **Provision of long-term care packages** which includes sourcing and procuring support for people who are eligible for county council funding for their domiciliary and residential care.
The money to pay for these services was managed by the Partnership Trust but overseen by both organisations.

The aims of bringing together health and social care services for older people and people with physical disabilities included:

- A better experience for families and service users, with a single assessment and a clear route to the support they need, rather than working across separate organisations and processes
- A single point of referral for professionals rather than working across separate organisations and processes
- More effective use of taxpayers’ money by streamlining processes and removing duplication
- Support for health and social care professionals to work more closely together, with the same manager, in the same building and with the same information systems, forms and documents

**What is happening from April 2017?**

In recent months, the agreement between the county council and the Partnership Trust for the provision of adult social care services for older people and people with physical disabilities has been reviewed.

From April 2017, the county council and the Partnership Trust intend to enter into a new Section 75 Agreement where:

- The Partnership Trust continues to provide assessment and case management, reablement and occupational therapy services
- Responsibility for buying long-term care packages and managing the budget for long-term care will return to the county council.

The number of older people in Staffordshire is increasing. As people live longer, there will be greater demand for long-term packages of care. The county council has responsibility for ensuring this care is provided to those who need it, so as demand increases, it makes sense for the county council to have control over buying care packages and ensuring the budget for long-term care is sustainable.

**What could this mean for me?**

Because front-line services, including assessment and case management, reablement support and occupational therapy will remain with the Partnership Trust, people and their families won’t see much change as a result of this new agreement.
It is possible that a family may have a conversation with a county council officer who is organising a long-term care package of care for them, but the formal assessment of that person’s need will still be carried out by staff from the Partnership Trust.

**Tell us what you think**

We are keen to hear what you think about our intentions, any suggestions for doing things differently and how the new agreement could impact you.

You can feed back in a number of ways:

- Online: by completing [the online feedback form](#)
- Email: by completing [this form](#) and emailing it to communications@staffordshire.gov.uk
- Post: by completing [this form](#) and returning it to

*Consultation on the provision of social care for older people and adults with physical disabilities*

Staffordshire County Council,
Staffordshire Place 2,
Stafford,
ST16 2DH

The consultation is open from Friday 4 November to 5:00pm on Tuesday 13 December 2016.

**How we will use your feedback**

Your feedback will be used to inform a final decision and the implementation of this.

We will also share a summary of the feedback when the consultation has closed.

**Alternative formats**

If you would like this information and/or a feedback form in another language or format (i.e. large text), please telephone 0300 111 8000 or email communications@staffordshire.gov.uk