
RIACT REVIEW: AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Adult and Housing Scrutiny Committee on the progress made to date in relation to the review of the RIACT service.

Background

2. The Better Care Fund submission in September 2014 included a specific product which was a review of a number of existing related schemes, either commissioned wholly by the CCG or jointly commissioned through a Section 256 Agreement. Two of the schemes to be reviewed were the RIACT service and the purchase of community/reablement/nursing care beds. This work has been completed by members of the MDT Operational Steering Group. Alongside this review the group have been looking at what additional resources are required during the forthcoming winter period.

Understanding of the Current Situation

3. Review work has highlighted a number of key actions and opportunities for further development to ensure the service is as efficient and effective as needed. Issues identified so far include:-
 - a) The shortage of available beds to support discharges and reduce admissions to both hospital and residential care.
 - b) The absence of local provision for community beds or a step up/down facility, which increases pressures on acute sites and can see individuals transferred to settings away from Darlington.
 - c) The transfer itself creating delays in the discharge process and access to therapy provision can be limited, thus reducing the likelihood of a successful return home. Support from family/care is limited by the location.
 - d) Limited access to rapid response domiciliary provision to support discharge.
 - e) Opportunity to use the provider element of the reablement service more effectively.
 - f) Opportunity to increase the use of assistive technology.

Remedial Actions

4. Increase in the use of assistive technology, medication dispensers are now available for those assessed as being suitable, work is ongoing to develop a range of technologies designed to support people in their own homes and allow the ability to monitor individuals during a health episode.
5. A review of the current rota system for the provider element of the service has been completed and this has increased capacity within the service. MDT review meetings are undertaken twice weekly to ensure individuals are progressing through the service and outcomes are being achieved in a timely manner.
6. Responsive, timely domiciliary care capacity: Challenges remain in relation to securing sufficient capacity within the domiciliary market. A review is underway but the forthcoming increase in the minimum wage and recent announcements in relation to the Living Wage are posing significant financial challenges.
7. Changes in management, new staff appointments and different ways of working mean that now is the right time to take stock of the current arrangements for the team, reviewing purpose and vision, clarifying the future state and what needs to happen to support this.

Next Steps/Longer Term Work

8. Procurement of a Rapid Response Domiciliary Service, a one off allocation from the System Resilience Group will fund this project during the winter period.
9. Processes are being reviewed to ensure both health and social care provider services would effectively work together to ensure maximum capacity within the service.
10. Work is currently ongoing which is focusing on the development of community/step up/step down facilities within the local area. An interim solution is required to assist with the forthcoming winter period and then a longer term option will be considered.
11. Intermediate care and reablement provision has been reviewed and proposals for facilities across two sites have been submitted for consideration. This would see an increase in the provision that is currently available. The proposals would see a phased approach being taken in developing an interim option as well as a long term option which encompasses intermediate/reablement and community facilities within one site. Effective multi-disciplinary working would continue to be paramount.
12. RIACT and reablement continues to be a universal service, however this does have an impact on the outcomes and performance of the service as not every individual receiving it will benefit from it. A more targeted service will need to be considered to ensure best use of resources.

Recommendation

13. It is recommended that:-

- a) That Scrutiny Committee take note of the report.

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