**Community Reablement Service and Hospital Discharge Care**

**(Home First) Services**

**Early Engagement and Soft Market Testing**

**Background**

This document is intended for information purposes only and will be used by West Sussex County Council’s (WSCC) contracts and commissioning service to understand Provider interest. This document does not form a legally binding contract and is not a statement of intent to enter into a contract with any Provider.

Please note that this is not the commencement of a procurement process and Providers are expressing an interest to receive further information on these services and take part in soft market testing. Should any procurement arise from this, a separate notice and information will be provided.

WSCC is anticipating that a procurement process will be undertaken in Summer 2024 with a view to new arrangements commencing on 1st April 2025. WSCC is seeking the views of registered support Providers to ascertain the level of interest in providing support to customers who would benefit from Community Reablement Services and Hospital Discharge Care (Home First) Services within the county of West Sussex.

**Details of Services in scope**

*Community Reablement Service:*

A Community Reablement Service Provider will receive referrals and provide reablement support within a Customer’s home within 24 hours of acceptance. Those suitable for reablement will be from both the hospital discharge and community referral pathways. The Customer will have a reablement plan that is asset-based and outcome-focused, to be implemented by the service provider with a move away from “time and task” activity.

The reablement package will be time limited (up to 6 weeks) and will:

1. Right-Size the package of care and, throughout the reablement period, reduce the package of care as the customer develops their resilience.
2. Provide reablement-focused support to promote independence, significantly reducing the support package and reabling the customer so they no longer need care and support to live at home.

A Community Reablement Service Provider may also have to provide domiciliary care for people who have some ongoing care needs at the end of their reablement period whilst a suitable package of care is sourced from the WSCC Domiciliary Care Framework.

*Hospital Discharge Care (Home First) Services:*

Home First services support people to be discharged from hospital and receive care in their own home to aid their recovery. Sussex Community Foundation Trust working with Home First Providers ensure that the right services are available to people, working as part of a multi-disciplinary team, referrals are responded to within a two-hour timeframe seven days and care packages commence on the same day.

These services are typically in place for up to 10 days, a social worker will undertake an assessment to identify any long-term care needs and if required arrangements could be made for domiciliary care or community services which may include voluntary or charitable sector services.

**Aims**

The aim of this Early Market Engagement Questionnaire is to support the re-commissioning of Community Reablement and Hospital Discharge Care services that support a WSCC and NHS jointly agreed vision and model for intermediate care services, seeking to improve how services are arranged and delivered operationally to provide the most effective service and the best use of combined assets.

The findings of this exercise will inform our thinking around the opportunities for commissioning and procurement of the service. Any information provided will be treated as ‘Commercial-in-Confidence’ and will be considered by local authority commissioners in such a way as to ensure that it is non-attributable to any particular provider. Opportunities for group based or individual organisation discussion with Providers who respond may follow this exercise.

Please can you respond to the four questions listed below by latest, **12pm on Wednesday 27 March 2024.** Please submit your completed document via email to [acdcescontractmanagement@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:acdcescontractmanagement@westsussex.gov.uk) including “Soft Market Testing” in the subject line.

**Q1. Option 1 - One Service Provider**

Key Features:

* Single commissioned Provider(s) to deliver both Community Reablement and Hospital Discharge Care services (countywide or geographic lots).
* Provider to work alongside NHS partners on hospital flow.
* All customers get supported with reablement/rehab where possible.
* MDT approach to managing services – social work and occupational therapy involvement for pathway determination related to entry and onward journey.
* Ringfencing a proportion of reablement capacity to enable community referrals.
* Assessment at the end of their Home First/reablement journey for customers who require a long-term social care or health care service.

*Please give your thoughts and comments on option 1 and any related service models below.*

**Q2. Option 2 - Separate Hospital Discharge (Home First) Care and Community Reablement services**

Key Features:

* Separate services/contracts to support Hospital Discharge Care (Home First) and separate service/contract for Community Reablement services (countywide or geographic lots).
* Providers to work alongside NHS partners on hospital flow.
* All customers get supported with reablement/rehab where possible.
* MDT approach for managing services out of Home First.
* Sussex Community Foundation Trust/Home First MDT to be able to make referrals direct to reablement Provider.
* Social work assessment only at end of reablement or rehab or end of Home First if long term care needs remain.

*Please give your thoughts and comments on option 2 and any related service models below.*

**Q3. Contract duration**

*Please advise us of your preferred contract duration and the rationale for this.*

**Q4. Additional ideas/suggestions**

WSCC are looking for ideas, innovations, and best practice to meet the aims of growth and increasing efficiency of the service commencement referenced above. We appreciate the subject matter expertise of Providers so would like to hear any ideas you may have and an indicator of the potential annual cost of your suggested approaches.

*Please give your thoughts and comments below which may include other delivery models, payment models or referral approaches. Please note that this is for soft market testing only and no figures given will be used for any other purpose other than to help inform WSCC of the potential service cost. This will not be used to evaluate any future bid.*