

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
<b>Subject:</b>	Community Equipment Service	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Social Care & Health		
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	Yes	<b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt/Confidential</b>	No		

### Purpose/Summary

The current NHS and Local Authority Community Equipment Store operates under a Section 75 Partnership Agreement between Sefton Council and Liverpool Community Health Trust under the National Health Act 2006. The Council and NHS need to consider how this service is best designed and provided for in the future. A decision is required in respect of the current agreement, which is due to end on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, in the context of ensuring the ongoing provision of this valuable service and the timetable for succession/replacement of the current NHS Community Services provider.

### Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

1. Agrees to the implementation of a new Section 75 Agreement with Liverpool Community Health Trust for the provision of a Community Equipment Store for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.
2. Authorises the Director of Social Care and Health to commission a new Community Equipment Service with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

### How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Children and Young People	√		
6	Creating Safe Communities		√	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		

## **Reasons for the Recommendation:**

Community equipment services play a vital role in supporting people of all ages to develop their full potential and to maintain their health, well-being and independence. Community equipment services are crucial to support;

- Reducing community acquired pressure ulcer incidents
- Supporting increasingly more complex discharges from hospital
- Supporting the End of Life pathway
- Supporting hospital admission avoidance
- Maintaining independence in the community

The operating costs of the present Community Equipment Store are jointly funded by Sefton's Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Council and run by Liverpool Community Health Services under a Section 75 partnership agreement with Sefton Council. Equipment budgets do not form part of the agreement, these costs are charged separately and directly to the appropriate organisation.

## **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

This service is required to provide essential health and wellbeing services. If these specialist services were to cease or become unavailable to Sefton residents this would have a major impact on the quality of life for the individuals concerned and on the health and care system as a whole.

The other options considered are:

- to commence an immediate procurement exercise to replace the existing service from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 - this option is not considered favourable due to the extremely tight timescale, the plans and timescales for replacement of the current NHS community services provider and because a procurement exercise would be more effective as an outcome of a comprehensive review of the current services and consideration of more effective, innovative, integrated and cost-effective ways of delivering the required outcomes. Some of the possible alternatives to be considered in identifying the best future service model, would involve developing a completely different service offer, merger of services currently delivered by different organisations and potentially completely different business models, consequently this review would be quite complex and needs sufficient time to undertake properly.
- Delivering the service in-house – the current service is largely staffed by Sefton Council employees and operates from a building that is leased by Sefton Council (the lease runs until 2017). There may be some TUPE implications related to the small number of NHS employees involved in delivery of the service and clinical oversight of the NHS elements of the service would need to be resolved. However, the key reason for rejection of this option at this point in time is the same as the above, that it is important to first determine the best future service model rather than simply re-procuring or internalising the existing service model.

## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

### (A) Revenue Costs

In the short-term the Council's contribution to the operating costs of the Community Equipment Store will be continue to be met from within the existing Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care budgets allocated for this purpose. The Council contribution in the current S75 agreement is c £477k.

A comprehensive review of the service provision may identify future service efficiencies, however, the overall finances of the project will need to be assessed. Should there be any significant changes, this will be the subject of a further report.

### (B) Capital Costs

None

### Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Financial</b>	
<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

Implementation of a new Section 75 Agreement, in similar terms to the existing one, would minimise impact on service delivery, providing stability whilst the comprehensive review is undertaken.

### What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Chief Finance Officer (FD.3854/15) and Head of Regulation & Compliance (LD.3137/15) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection

### **Background**

1. Community equipment for older or disabled people provides the gateway to their independence, dignity and self-esteem. Community equipment is central to effective rehabilitation; it improves quality of life; enhances life opportunities through education and employment; and reduces morbidity at costs that are low compared to other forms of healthcare.
2. Community equipment services are vitally important in supporting key policy objectives. In view of the prevention, rehabilitation and independence agenda having increased significantly over recent years, together with demographic changes, there has been and will continue to be pressure placed upon these services. These services are used by almost every clinical professional responsible for providing care in the community, and they are crucial in ensuring policy objectives can be achieved.
3. Community Equipment Services are crucial to support;
  - Reducing community acquired pressure ulcer incidents
  - Supporting increasingly more complex discharges from hospital
  - Supporting the End of Life pathway
  - Supporting hospital admission avoidance
  - Maintaining independence in the community
4. The current Section 75 Partnership Agreement is intended to meet health and social care needs using one single framework and integrated provision. The Council act as the Lead Body for the Partnership. The aim of the Partnership is to work jointly, delivering to Service Users in the Sefton area, an integrated and seamless Community Equipment Service that provides an appropriate range of equipment to meet assessed needs and to support intermediate care, hospital discharge, rehabilitation and independent living in the community.
5. The current partnership agreement ends on 31st March 2016

### **Proposed Commissioning Approach**

6. It is proposed to implement a new Section 75 Agreement with our current partner, Liverpool Community Health Trust (LCH) for the period 1st April 2016 - 31st March 2017, in similar terms to the current agreement. This will help to ensure stability and ongoing safe delivery of the service whilst a comprehensive review is undertaken and ahead of the replacement of LCH.
7. The comprehensive review of the service, conducted jointly by Sefton Council and the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups, would:
  - Ensure a sound understanding of the current service
  - Ensure a sound understanding of anticipated future demand

- Explore good practice in other Local Authorities;
  - Consider the potential for more effective, innovative and cost-effective ways of delivering the service.
  - Consider the service user's pathway and the relationship with associated services (e.g. Community Equipment Store, provision of assistive technology, minor adaptations, Disabled Facilities Grant adaptations etc.)
  - Develop a new service model, service specification and a proposed approach to provision and/or procurement.
8. On completion of the review, including any necessary consultation, a further report would be submitted to Cabinet to seek agreement on provision and/or procurement of the future service. It is intended that the new service would be commissioned and operational from 1st April 2017.