



Name of meeting: Cabinet

Date: 11th July 2023

Title of report: NHS England Digital Social Care Project – Grant Scheme

Purpose of report:

This report updates cabinet on the work around externally funded digital social care work. This report also requests delegation to the Service Director - Mental Health & Learning Disability to award grants under the scheme outlined in this report.

Key Decision – A key decision is an executive decision to be made by Cabinet which is likely to result in Council spending or saving £500k or more per annum, or to have a significant positive or negative effect on communities living or working in an area compromising two or more electoral wards. Decisions having a particularly significant effect on a single ward may also be treated as if they were key decisions.	Yes/ no or Not Applicable No If yes give the reason why
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Key Decision – No Private Report/Private Appendix –No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Strategic Director Adults & Health - Richard Parry 13/6/2023 Dean Langton 14/6/2023 Julie Muscroft 22/6/22
Cabinet member <u>portfolio</u>	Councillor M Khan – Health & Social Care

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: The delegations in this report are likely to bring benefits to the care sector operating across Kirklees. There are no specific wards that will be affected.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? There are no GDPR compliance issues connected with this report or its proposals.

1. Summary

- A great deal of work has been undertaken to research and support the local adult social care market around digital technology and the deployment of digital record systems. This paper updates Cabinet on the progress made and plans for the remainder of this financial year to deliver grant funding to support the rollout of digital care systems in care provider locations across Kirklees.
- This paper requests the approval of financial rule delegations to the Service Director Mental Health & Learning Disabilities to facilitate the distribution of funding secured from NHS England.

2. Information required to take a decision

3. Background

Since late 2021 Kirklees adult social care has been working with colleagues in the Integrated Care System/ Board (ICS/ B) and NHS England Transformation Directorate. The work started out with some external funding to undertake research and develop a baseline of digital readiness across local social care providers. This research highlighted opportunities to increase the number of local social care providers who use digital systems to manage and support the delivery of high quality care.

Following on from the digital readiness research in the summer of 2022 Kirklees adult social care successfully bid for £403k of NHS England funding to support our care providers to deploy digital care records systems and specialist falls detection and prevention technology. We have supported thirty-four care providers with grant funding towards the deployment of a new digital care record all of whom had been using paper based care records.

The grants for 2022/23 were issued under financial procedure rule (FPR) 22.12 (d) which allows a Service Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to approve the required grant amounts. This financial procedure rule cannot be used for the same purpose over more than one financial year, and Cabinet approval is required to issue further grants.

The Falls Technology aspect of the 2022/23 funding was a smaller amount and supported the deployment of specialist falls detection and prevention technology into eleven care homes. The monitoring of benefits is in early stages, but the technology is designed to both support people at higher risk of falls and alert staff to falls, the technology in some setting also monitors daily habits and natural movement of people to spot early signs of decline in conditions which may put a person at higher risk of a fall or be the precursor to a change in wellbeing.

To effectively deliver the project across the care sector we sought the support of the Kirklees Care Association (KirCA) and used the external grant funding to develop engagement capacity and resources. This was to support care providers to access the grant funding and support choices about the types of systems available, and the merits of each for their care setting.

The qualifying criteria for the grant scheme are set nationally by NHS England and require a care provider to have a CQC registered location in the geographic area where they are applying for funding. The care provider must also not already have a digital care

system. There is a national framework of approved digital care system suppliers that is managed by NHS England and offers care providers a choice of around fifteen systems that can be purchased using the grant funding under the project.

The overall programme of work has been highly successful, from the initial research engagement levels and the success of the bids for funding. The strong relationship and sector led delivery capacity in KirCA, and the effectiveness of the grant programme has meant Kirklees has funded the highest number of successful system deployments in West Yorkshire.

Moving forward for 2023/24 a further bid has been successfully made and £214k has been secured for Kirklees. This is to continue the engagement work through KirCA, and also support additional local care providers to access grant funding to support the deployment of eighteen more digital social care record systems. The successful bid for 2023/24 also includes an option to seek additional funding if more than eighteen successful grants are awarded locally during this financial year. Grant amounts per care provider site have been set regionally at up to £7k.

In addition because of the success of the engagement resources in KirCA, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council (CMBC) has requested that KirCA manage the engagement activity across their geographic area. This slightly expands the team required to work effectively across Kirklees and Calderdale but £79k external funding has been awarded to cover all these costs, in addition a small amount of Kirklees Council officer time is externally funded to support the grant scheme and reporting for the project.

4. Proposal

There are two key proposals this report is seeking support for delegation under financial procedure rule 22.11 (a):

1. The delegation to the Service Director Mental Health & Learning Disabilities to award grant funding of £79k to KirCA to continue to externally fund the engagement resources to support the project, and administer any additional grant obtained from NHSE/WYICB until 31 March 2025.
2. The delegation to the Service Director Mental Health & Learning Disabilities to issue grants to CQC registered care providers under the Digital Social Care NHS England grant programme until 31 March 2025.

The rationale for externally funding KirCA as a delivery and engagement resource is that it builds on our aspirations to support the development of the association, the team that has developed during year one of project is highly skilled at advising and supporting the sector in selecting an effective digital solution and supporting connections for peer support between care providers at a similar stage of purchase or deployment.

4.1 Costs

The care provider grant scheme, the resources for engagement in KirCA and a small amount of officer time are all externally funded using monies from NHS England via section 256 agreement with West Yorkshire integrated Care Board (ICB) for the remainder of financial year 2023/24.

The total grant awarded to Kirklees Council is made up of:

- £126k grants to care providers to support the deployment of Digital Care Record Systems
- £79k grant funding to KirCA for engagement resources covering Kirklees and Calderdale geographies.

5. Timescales

The project and grant scheme will run until the end of financial year 2023/24, there is scope for additional years funding but the terms of this will not be clear until early 2024.

The team in KirCA is in place and a draft grant agreement has been prepared to expand the geographic area of operation to include Calderdale and the revised performance metrics for the financial year 2023/24.

Once Cabinet approval for the approach is given, we will open the scheme to applications using previous application and evaluation templates. Grant agreements between Kirklees Council and care providers will be updated to reflect changes introduced by the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and associated regulations.

6. Benefits and Risks

Risks:

- The risks are low, the strong relationships with the skilled KirCA team would continue and expand to engage providers in Calderdale. The team secured thirty-four independent sector grants between December 2022 and March 2023 and with only eighteen to be achieved in the remaining 9 months of this financial year their pace and engagement abilities pose no risks.
- The inclusion of Calderdale does not pose a risk to capacity for Kirklees and will enhance the value of KirCA in the CMBC area.
- All grant evaluation and issuing to care providers within Calderdale will take place through CMBC finance and grant giving rules and procedures.

Benefits:

- The project will further demonstrate our support for, and commitment to the local care sector.
- The project brings grant support for DSCR to local care providers.
- There is potential scope for additional in-house DSCR grant access.
- The project builds on our aspirations for self-sustaining local care association.

7. Evaluation and Sustainability

There are West Yorkshire level benefit realisation and project evaluation processes in place, Kirklees Council have contributed to the design and content of these products.

The project is designed to kickstart provider investment in digital social care record systems, the project will come to a natural end, but the legacy will be the shift from paper care records to digital integrated systems. One longer term aspiration is to connect the digital care records used by providers into the Yorkshire and Humber Care Record (YHCR) where person centred care planning can be more effectively delivered across partners and more actively involve people in their care and support.

8. Implications for the Council

8.1 Working with People

People and carers being involved in their care planning and reviewing will be enhanced through the use of digital care records. The systems use tablet computers and other devices to take the care record to the person, so discussions and contributions of people can be recorded straight into the system rather than it being a back office exercise. Digital care records really work towards our vision of people being at the heart of their own care and support.

8.2 Working with Partners

Our delivery approach to project being led by the Kirklees Care Association (KirCA) means the work is sector led, the project in year one worked with providers and assisted in finding the most appropriate digital solution for their care setting and budget.

Strong relationships have been developed with integrated care board (ICB) and other West Yorkshire local authorities also working on the wider project.

Our plans for the second phase of the work will also build support networks for care providers that are implementing systems, this will hopefully evolve into a sustainable network to shape developments in digital care record systems that benefit our local population moving forward.

8.3 Place Based Working

Adult social care is increasingly working in a place-based way, the different locality hubs and the work with primary care networks has led to strong relationships with partners and local providers and led to case level outcome improvements across the range of our provision.

The proposal will allow us to build on these already strong relationships because data will be easier to securely share between health and social care professionals working with individual service users. This will enhance the experience of service users and carers, hand offs between partners will be easier and many of the digital care record systems have carer and relative accounts. The engagement in the planning and delivery of care is enhanced when digital care systems are compared to paper based care records.

8.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The shift away from paper based social care records will significantly reduce the demand for paper across the care sector. Social care records also require storage and archive space which typically requires a temperature controlled environment to be maintained using energy to heat or cool the area.

Travel is also expected to be reduced, paper records are transported between care settings and central offices, and into archive facilities. This will reduce as digital care records will be securely accessible from anywhere.

Many of the digital care record systems are cloud based and are operated using UK based data centres which use renewable energy and in some cases heat exchanger technology to reuse energy emitted from the data centre.

8.5 Improving outcomes for children

There will be no impact.

8.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

This is external funding; it provides funding to support local engagement resources within KirCA. This investment enhances the role and reach on the care association and offers employment opportunities for local people.

Care organisations accessing the external grant fund through the scheme are receiving financial support to fund and embed a digital care record system. Local care providers have long had ambitions around moving to a digital record systems this funding enables that initial investment to be made using external funds. There are ongoing costs of system licences, but this is partially offset by more efficient practice and the reduction in paper record management and storage costs.

8.7 Other (eg Integrated Impact Assessment/Legal/Financial or Human Resources)

- The external funding covers a small amount of Kirklees Council officer time to oversee the programme of work locally and support reporting and grant administration.
- There are transaction costs relating to paying the grants, but these are minimal and no different from other payments made to social care providers locally.
- A grant agreement will be used to fund the KirCA delivery partner, this covers a range of eventualities and allows Kirklees Council to effectively monitor and manage the delivery of the project.
- A further grant agreement will be used for social care providers to support the purchase of a digital social care record system. This agreement covers scope of the funding, reporting arrangements, funding clawback and agreements around subsidy control regulations.
- As described above there is a national framework list of approved suppliers of digital social care record systems, as a council we are not endorsing or supporting the purchase of any particular system for an independent provider. All the contracting, procurement, data security and other compliance sits between the independent provider and their independently chosen record system supplier. There is no expertise or advice contribution the council makes to the implementation of the independent care providers system deployment.
- There will be no impact on the Armed Forces Covenant. The access to care and assessment does not change, accessibility and involvement in care planning is expected to improve for all service users and carers receiving support from care providers operating a digital care record system.

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

A West Yorkshire level ICB impact assessment has been contributed to by Kirklees Council and mitigations are in place and being managed at ICB level for all LA areas.

9. Consultation

Risk and Procurement – Risk and Procurement colleagues have reviewed the proposal and agree a Cabinet approval under financial procedure rule 22.11 (a) is the most appropriate route for this project.

Finance – Finance colleagues support the use of FPR to fulfil the requirement and the approach taken to grant use as part of the project.

10. Engagement

Care Providers – The approach used during 2022/23 has been tested and the use of a delivery partner in KirCA is supported by the sector in terms of being sector led and offering a high level of support. There is support for the model of grant application to continue with some minor alterations to the application form and associated guidance documents.

11. Next steps and timelines

- Subject to approval by Cabinet, work will commence to implement the grant agreement with the Kirklees Care Association as a delivery partner for the project.
- Steps will also be taken to finalise the grant application and begin engagement of care providers in scope and eligible to apply for the grant funding.
- Plans are in place to move rapidly on these actions, and they will be complete within a week or so of approval by Cabinet.

12. Officer recommendations and reasons

- It is recommended Cabinet delegate authority to the Service Director Mental Health & Learning Disabilities to administer an externally NHS West Yorkshire ICB /NHSE funded grant of up to £79k to Kirklees Care Association (KirCA) for based engagement staff, associated project and management costs, and administer any additional grant obtained from NHSE/WYICB until 31 March 2025.
- It is recommended Cabinet delegate authority to the Service Director Mental Health & Learning Disabilities to administer an NHS West Yorkshire ICB /NHSE funded grant scheme to up to £126k to fund CQC registered locations for eligible applicant provider organisations and administer any additional grant obtained from NHSE/WYICB until 31 March 2025.
- It is requested Cabinet note the work already undertaken to develop digital care solutions in the local care provider market.

13. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

- Cabinet support delegated authority to the Service Director Mental Health & Learning Disabilities to administer an externally NHS West Yorkshire ICB /NHSE funded grant of up to £79k to Kirklees Care Association (KirCA) for based engagement staff, associated project and management costs, and administer any additional grant obtained from NHSE/WYICB until 31 March 2025.
- Cabinet support delegated authority to the Service Director Mental Health & Learning Disabilities to administer an NHS West Yorkshire ICB /NHSE funded grant scheme to up to £126k to fund CQC registered locations for eligible applicant provider organisations, and administer any additional grant obtained from NHSE/WYICB until 31 March 2025.
- Cabinet note the work already undertaken to develop digital care solutions in the local care provider market.

14. Contact Officer

Chris Porter - Service Development Manager
Tel: 71115
Email: chris.porter@kirklees.gov.uk

15. Service Director responsible

Michelle Cross – Service Director Mental Health & Learning Disabilities