

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Surrey County Council Response to Covid: providing support to a specific provider – Millbrook Healthcare
Divisions Affected:	All divisions
'Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 March 2020 Min ref: 41/20

Summary

Adult Social Care providers that the Council commissions care services from are facing additional financial pressures due to the COVID-19 (C19) pandemic.

Millbrook Healthcare (Millbrook) provides the Community Equipment Service (CES) to the Council and its CCG partners through a S75 agreement. Monthly costs for the service are in the range of £650k - £725k depending on demand. Millbrook approached officers with a proposal to help support them during the C19 pandemic.

Due to the pandemic there has been a significant drop off in repairs and maintenance work delivered through the contract. This work is the part of the contract that enables Millbrook to achieve a small margin, the remainder of the contract is related to the purchase, delivery and collection of equipment and is delivered at cost. Without the demand for Repairs and Maintenance work, Millbrook can't recover the costs of staff who would normally do this work, but who have been redeployed to work on other aspects of the Surrey contract at this time.

Millbrook's request is that they are paid the on costs of the staff that would otherwise have been carrying out repairs and maintenance work and that would normally be funded through the cost of the repairs and maintenance works. This "does not include any margin for Millbrook. The cost of this is £105.64 per employee per day and initial estimates suggest the total cost for the period April – June 2020 will be less than £25,000. Millbrook will provide data to substantiate their claim on a monthly basis.

SCC are only liable for half the cost as the CES contract is part of a pooled fund and split between SCC and our CCG partners on a 50:50 basis.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

The C19 support offer to Millbrook be varied as set out above.

Reasons for Decision:

To support Millbrook during this C19 pandemic period in a way that is acceptable to all parties and provides the best value for money for the Council.

Decision taken by:	Simon White – Executive Director for ASC Sinead Mooney – Cabinet Member for Adults
Decision taken on:	6 th May 2020
To be implemented on:	Following CLT and Cabinet formal approval of this arrangement which is due to be made on 7 th May, payments to Millbrook for the period April to June 2020 will be made inclusive of the cost of the repairs and maintenance staff as set out above.

Alternative options considered

Millbrook could furlough some front line staff (they have already furloughed some back office staff). This would mean that they would not be as responsive to supporting the Council and Health partners in the current rapidly changing environment. This was not deemed to be acceptable for the CES Board.

Summary of any financial implications

The payment of on costs for the period April – June is currently expected to cost less than £25,000 based on 2 staff no longer working on repairs and maintenance tasks. If there is a further drop off in orders placed with Millbrook this cost may increase. If the costs increase significantly further conversations will take place with Millbrook on how SCC can best support them. This may include requesting that they furlough some front line staff.

This cost will be split in the pooled fund 50/50 between SCC and its CCG partners. SCC's estimated cost is therefore £12,500 and the intention is that the COVID-19 funding SCC is receiving from central government will be used to fund this cost. CCG partners intended to recover their share of the cost through their own COVID-19 funding.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

Decision taken in consultation with Cabinet Members for Adults, the Executive Directors for Adult Social Care, and also based on discussions with CES Board and Millbrook.

Background Documents

Exempt:

Cabinet report 31 st March 2020 setting out the council's response to Covid-19.	
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