

## Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Budget Working Group Conclusions

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### Key Lines of Enquiry

The Working Group undertook a deep dive into the budget associated with demand management, raising detailed data and information requests. These are detailed in the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) background document (available upon request).

Working Group Findings and Recommendations	
Question for consideration	Working group conclusions
How much is in the budget?	<p>The working group sought to understand the basis of the Adult Social Care (ASC) budget and the impact of demand management by receiving a detailed overview of the service budget in its first meeting and focussing in on the finances around long term care in its second meeting.</p> <p>The group felt assured that through its first meeting it had a good understanding of the budget for the various services being provided under ASC. This included an exploration of the impact of demand on waiting times for services.</p> <p>To maximise its impact, the group focussed its second meeting on demand management through a lens of the financial implications relating to long-term care and service provision options around this. This included a deep dive into residential care, block booked beds and reablement. Detailed questions were drawn up by the group in relation to the costs in these areas and answered by officers.</p> <p><b>Note</b> - the answers provided to the working group contain exempt information not available to the public under Access to Information Procedure Rule 9.2.3 of the Constitution as they relate to financial and business affairs of the council. This information would be available as a background paper to councillors upon request.</p> <p>When examining the budget around long-term care, the group particularly explored the benefits of block booked beds for long-term care and noted that these were not limited to financial benefits, but included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved partnership working and improved market relationships;</li><li>• Enabling the council to secure right level of supply with demand,</li><li>• Benefit of cost savings,</li><li>• Increased sustainability for care homes.</li></ul>

<p>What does the data tell us about demand or unmet needs?</p>	<p>The working group found that the data shows a significant increase in demand for services across ASC, including in long-term care. In terms of meeting need, the group found that there is existing market capacity for those needing residential care and needs are therefore met but that this comes at a significant cost to the authority for it. Whilst there is available capacity available to cater for people who have a need for residential and nursing care, there is also demand for services which could be considered as a service gap relating to residents with more complex needs, as well as people with mental health difficulties, learning disabilities and rehabilitation. Reablement could be delivered at a different time and in other ways to allow for more benefits to be gained from this.</p>
<p>Is the council meeting its aims and objectives?</p>	<p>The working group found that the council is meeting its aims and objectives in terms of demand management, but that there is a huge amount of need to be met. The group was mindful of those people that are awaiting assessment of need but noted the decreasing trend in assessment waiting time. This is in keeping with the situation in most councils. During this waiting time for assessment, the group noted that risk was appropriately managed by the council by the use of a risk tool that enables priority to be given to those with the highest levels of risk. Those waiting for assessment can alert the council if their circumstances change resulting in an increase in their risk and their need to be assessed.</p> <p>In terms of long-term care needs, the working group noted that an increase in domiciliary care demand may be considered a positive change as this demonstrates an ability for those with long-term care needs to remain within their own homes with appropriate support, rather than being supported in a long-term care facility. The working group felt that the aim to support residents to stay in their own home should be accompanied by an effective rehabilitation and reablement offer. This would make sure that as many residents as possible have the option to avoid residential care and stay at home.</p>
<p>Do we have any recommendations?</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations to the O&amp;S Board</u></b></p> <p><b>That the Board recommends to Cabinet:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. That in light of the financial and other benefits of block booking beds, funds be made available in the 2025/26 budget to allow the Adult Social Care service to increase the number of block booked beds used by the council for long-term care provision with the aim of reaching 300 block booked beds, followed by a review and a further aim of 500 block booked beds.</b></li> </ol>

	<p><b>2. That funds be made available in the 2025/26 budget to support the Adult Social Care service to work in partnership with health partners to develop a more enhanced offer of intermediate care and reablement care to be able to meet the objective of reducing or delaying long-term residential care need for residents.</b></p> <p><b>That the Board recommends to the Health &amp; Adult Social Care O&amp;S Committee:</b></p> <p><b>3. That the Health &amp; Adult Social Care Committee be asked to monitor the proposed increase of block booked beds for long-term care and request an officer update on progress against this at an appropriate time.</b></p>
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