

Report To: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 14 September 2017
Lead Member / Officer: Bobby Feeley / Nicola Stubbins
Report Author: Phil Gilroy
Title: **Pooled Budgets**

1. What is the report about?

This report provides Members with information regarding existing and future pooled budget arrangements between Denbighshire County Council (DCC) and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCU).

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information regarding past experience of pooling funds between DCC and BCU and to update Members on the requirements of the Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) to pool budgets between Local Authorities and Health Boards for the commissioning of residential care services.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members consider the information provided and provide comment on experiences to date as well as requirements for the future.

4. Report details

4.1 Legal Background

The Health Act 1999 initially provided significant flexibilities for NHS bodies and local government to pool budgets, integrate services and/or delegate the commissioning or management of provision of particular services to a lead partner (commonly referred to as s.33 Partnership Agreements). The SSWBA, Part 9, requires health and social care agencies within each regional Partnership Board to establish and maintain pooled funds in relation to the exercise of their care home accommodation functions by April 2018.

4.2 Local Experience

In Denbighshire we have 2 long standing and current formal Section 33 Partnership Agreements involving the pooling of funds; one for the integrated community equipment service (CESI) and one for a small service of Health and Social Care Support Workers (HSCSWs).

A Section 33 for the integration of some aspects of Occupational Therapy was negotiated in 2007 -2008, however, there was no agreement on the resources (in this case human resources) to commit to the Partnership, so it was not signed.

There was also an informal arrangement many years ago for the monitoring of a 'virtual' pooled intermediate care budget, which worked well until grant funding took over and partners started to remove elements of their own revenue budget as the financial situation worsened within their own organisations. The Single Point of Access (SPOA) is monitored in a similar way now.

There is therefore considerable experience of small scale pooling.

4.3 Learning from Experience (see Appendix 1 for greater detail)

4.3.1 Financial issues

- It is much easier for the Local Authority to identify the relevant budgets and amounts to be included in a pooled budget than the Health Board, as their budgets are split among many different parts of the organisation.
- Different VAT requirements between organisations need to inform best practice.

4.3.2 Governance issues

- It is essential to have a formal agreement is to clarify and agree the aims objectives and outcomes of the partnership – the language needs to be unambiguous and there needs to be agreement on quality and standards

4.3.3 Stakeholder Views

- Colleagues from BCU and DCC were invited to share their views on 'pooled budgets' based on their individual experience with budgets established for CESI/ SPOA and HSCSW. All contributors were supportive of seeing the expansion of pooled budgets, where priorities are shared.

5. **How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The provision of pooled budgets will support the current priorities:

- Ensure that Vulnerable People are protected and are able to live as independently as possible; and,
- Modernising the council to deliver efficiencies and improve services for our customers

6. **What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

At this point in time there is a lot of work being undertaken regionally to understand the implications of pooling residential care budgets. A further report to Scrutiny Committee will provide this detail.

7. **What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

A local Well-being Impact Assessment has not been completed as the pooling of budgets is a statutory requirement from SSWBA, which has been impact assessed nationally.

8. **What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

This is the first report to Scrutiny on this matter.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

At this point in time there is a lot of work being undertaken regionally to understand the implications of pooling residential care budgets. A further report to Scrutiny Committee will provide this detail.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

At this point in time there is a lot of work being undertaken regionally to understand the implications of pooling residential care budgets. A further report to Scrutiny Committee will provide this detail.

11. Power to make the Decision

Scrutiny's powers with respect to this matter are set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Section 7.4.2(b) of the Council's Constitution