
TITLE: Assisted Waste Collection Review

Date: 16th November 2020

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[V99]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on the first annual assisted waste collection review and ask for their agreement to the recommendation set out within this report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are requested to approve the deferral of the first annual assisted waste collection review until September 2021, due to the increased risk this would pose to vulnerable residents and increase the pressure already placed on the NHS and local GPs.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 A previous report submitted to this committee on the 9 September 2019 requested members approve a review of the assisted waste collection service as well as agreeing that an annual review take place to ensure the most vulnerable residents were receiving the correct level of service required to meet their needs.

3.2 The nature of this review was to ensure that those residents receiving the service were indeed eligible for it and to ensure that those receiving the service that did not require it, were removed.
This process ensured that ECSS were able to provide an efficient and effective service and valuable resources were not wasted on those who were not entitled to it.

3.3 Before the report submitted to the committee in September 2019, ECSS were providing an assisted collection service to 1100 properties. After the initial review in 2019, this number was reduced to 395 properties, highlighting that resource was being committed to areas it was not required.

3.4 As part of the initial and annual reviews, residents are requested to provide medical information that supports their need of the service. In the majority of cases, this evidence took the form of a letter or note from the residents GP, confirming their eligibility and requirement of the service.

3.5 With the most vulnerable residents already suffering from the increased risks posed to their health by the Coronavirus, requesting those residents leave their homes to attend their local practice to seek the required medical evidence, would further increase this risk.

3.6 As well as the increased risks posed to vulnerable residents, all NHS staff, including those working at local practices, are currently suffering from an increase in demand and pressure. Therefore, instructing residents to visit these locations to seek the required medical evidence, would place an additional burden on the valuable resource that is already heavily focused on dealing with the pandemic.

3.7 The initial review of the service in 2019 dramatically reduced the number of residents receiving the service and ensured the service was only being provided to those who genuinely required it.

Since the initial review, all new additions to the service have provided the necessary evidence. This guarantees that resources are not wasted and are being used efficiently.

3.8 Due to this substantial review and the additional steps introduced to ensure only eligible residents receive the service, ECSS can guarantee it has sufficient resource to continue to deliver the service, until the proposed review in September 2021.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The decision to defer the review of the assisted waste collection service will ensure that we are not requesting our most vulnerable residents increase the already level of risk posed against them due to the pandemic.

4.2 Additionally, the decision to defer the review will also ensure the Council does not increase the pressure and existing burdens already placed throughout all sections of the National Health Service.

4.3 The review undertaken in 2019 has ensured that the current service is operating substantially more efficient.

4.4 Although it may be likely that some residents currently listed on the service may no longer require it, these anomalies are likely to be minimal and providing an enhanced service to the few, outweighs the negative impact commencing this year's review would cause.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 There are no financial or equality implications associated with this report.

6.0 APPENDICES

None

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
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None

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