

## **Vice Chair's Report of Bolton Care4 meeting attended 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

Caroline Gee, Clinical Lead with the NHS Funded Care Team under the Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group gave a presentation about Continuing Healthcare.

She explained that this is a complex subject and, basically, asks the question "What is a health need?"

It can be a treatment, control or prevention of a disease, illness, injury or disability and the care or aftercare of a person with these needs which will be met by a combination of mainstream services such as District or Community Nurses and Tissue Viability Nurse.

You or your loved ones over the age of 18 or in transition may be eligible for Continuing Healthcare if they meet the criteria for a health or social need.

Social Needs are services which the Local Authority have a duty to provide and cover washing, dressing, enabling the person to eat a meal, or even 'drinking' which is classed as a social need. Also, assessments regarding equipment needed, home adaptations and even support to find a care home or carer support are undertaken.

Funding for residential care may be means tested.

For funded nursing care i.e. if the person requires 24 hr access to a qualified nurse, the NHS pays the cost of the nurse.

Continuing Health Care (CHC) funding is given when the person has a primary health need. The CHC is fully funded by the NHS (Clinical Commissioning Group) and care can be provided in any setting such in the person's own home, Network House, or Nursing Home etc. in usually higher rate packages.

These packages are basically the NHS's version of Direct Payments and can be added to if there is a need i.e. if someone's illness gets worse and they need extra attention.

CHC funding can also be through the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) i.e. full process of assessment or even fast tracked.

A Check List has to be completed and a detailed assessment carried out.

Either go to the Social Worker or ring up to go through the check list. The Nurse will also go through her side of the check list. The questions are awarded scores i.e. A, B, C, D etc. and if the scores are mainly 'A's then you go onto the next stage. If you don't pass the check list you can appeal.

Multi-Disciplinary Team Full Process consists of a group of Health Professionals. They will come out to you to give a full introduction and explain the process and then review the assessments made by the Social Worker, Nurse, or District Nurse. The checklist will go to the Co-ordinator and then the MDT do the Full Process. You can say if you are not in agreement or if you want something added. The Nursing Assessor will add any comments you make, but make sure it is evidence based. You can disagree but you must say so and detail why.

At each stage and throughout they will ask are you happy with the situation.

There were various comments from the meeting, and others at the meeting who had gone through the process, said that it was a difficult time.

Regarding 'Making the Recommendation', each of the four characteristics listed could be classed as a health need due to the type of and amount of care required to meet the need.

The characteristics are Nature, Complexity, Intensity, and Unpredictability.

A person with swallowing problems, as an instance, could come under Nature – can anyone manage the problem or will it need nursing care i.e. feeding tubes?

Someone who needs 24 hour care/supervision or needs 2/3 people to move them or needs to be kept an eye on, could be under Intensity.

If they are immobile and at high risk of developing bed sores this may constitute a Complex need.

An Unpredictable need would be how the need fluctuates or whether it can become unstable and rapidly deteriorating.

The Recommendation is whether funding would be available.

Health and Social Care Professionals have to look at the overall scores and consider the overall health and social needs for the Indicators.

If the decision is for Continuing Healthcare or there is any disagreement with any part of it, then the family has to give a valid reason.

Finally, when the final letter is received, you can appeal on the level of need and will require a reason/s and proof.

You can also ask your Social Worker and Learning Disability Nurse to help you complete the form.

Further information: on Dept. of Health website, can ask your Social Worker or contact the team direct on **01204 462293**.

There followed an interesting question and answer session.