


NHS Continuing Healthcare – Suffolk and North East Essex

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What is NHS Continuing Healthcare?

- A package of ongoing care arranged and funded solely by the NHS, where the individual has been assessed and found to have a 'primary health need.'
 - The care is provided to an individual aged 18 or over, to meet health and associated social care needs that have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness.
 - Eligibility is not determined by the setting in which the package of care and support can be offered, or the type of service delivery.
 - Assessments are carried out by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) team, alongside social care representatives from the relevant Local Authority.
 - The ICB makes the final decision on eligibility.
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What is NHS Funded Nursing Care?

- Funding from the NHS to care homes with nursing to support the provision of nursing care by an RN
- Single band rate that changes yearly
- In all cases, NHS CHC eligibility must be considered and a decision reached on eligibility before considering the need for NHS-funded Nursing Care
- Not available to people in residential care homes, or residential beds in dual registered care homes.
- Important to check with the commissioner of the placement if someone in a dual registered care home might need to move from residential to nursing.


Who are the NHS CHC Team & What do we do?

- Large team covering the whole of SNEE
- Based in Ipswich and Colchester
- We carry out CHC assessments, reviews and case management
- Assessment is triggered by a CHC Checklist, these can be completed by any health or care practitioner who knows the individual – We are happy to offer training to nursing home colleagues.
- Manage the Discharge to Assess health pathway for people being discharged from hospital who are highly likely to be CHC eligible
- Offer urgent nursing care payment for people coming out of hospital into care homes with nursing, prior to NHS CHC assessment/determination of eligibility for NHS CHC/NHS-fNC
- Court of Protection applications for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards for people in their own home

How we commission care

- We have a Commissioning and Case Management Team made up of several Nurses and Placement Officers who work across Suffolk and North East Essex
 - We work with the local hospitals to facilitate discharges as quickly as possible by commissioning care for people who are being discharged on the Discharge to Assess health pathway, those who are already funded by CHC (but have a change in need), and those who are Fast Track eligible
 - We commission care for people in the community who may or may not already be in receipt of care, or residing in a care home
 - We may take over the costs of the existing care package or placement, or we may commission a change in care depending on a persons needs
 - We have an Equity and Choice Policy which clarifies the commissioning processes and ensures the process is person led
 - People who are CHC eligible and living in their own home have the right to have a Personal Health Budget
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Contracts

- The ICB employs a Contract Manager with responsibility for CHC across Suffolk and North East Essex
 - We have an ongoing programme of implementing contracts with providers
 - We use the short form of the NHS Standard contract
 - We have an accreditation process for new providers
 - CHC commissions care from over 80 providers in Essex and over 300 for the whole of the ICB (including some out of area providers)
 - We are working closely with Essex County Council with regards both the IRN and Live at Home Frameworks
 - We issue individual Service Level Agreements for each placement/care package
 - We agree rates with providers at the start of each financial year
 - Each year CHC applies an inflationary uplift to provider rates – it is anticipated that 2024/24 uplift details will have been shared with providers ahead of this forum meeting
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Further info

- [Continuing Healthcare - NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB](#)
 - [Beacon CHC | Free advice & expert representation - Beacon CHC](#)
 - Happy to answer any questions (unless they are patient specific.)
 - Thank you!
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