

NHS Continuing Healthcare

How things are changing in
Castle Point and Rochford



About your CCG

Castle Point and Rochford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) serves a population of around 182,000 people, buying NHS services such as emergency care, hospital care, and community and mental health services for our local communities.



One of the services we have responsibility for providing is NHS continuing healthcare (CHC); a package of care funded solely by the NHS that is awarded to eligible adults and older people to meet the needs that have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness. CHC can be provided in any setting including, but not limited to, a care home, residential/nursing or the person's own home. We allocate the funding for, and arrange the delivery of, these healthcare packages. We currently have around 550 people receiving CHC in our area.

What do you need to know?

We needed to look at how funds are allocated for CHC in the Castle Point and Rochford area to ensure that our CHC system is fair for all and based upon the specific needs of each individual. We're not looking to change who is eligible for CHC, we're looking at calculating costs based on patients individual needs and exploring options rather than relying on pre-packaged care.

These changes will **not affect** those patients who are currently in receipt of a CHC package of care, but they will apply to all those people who are found to be eligible for CHC after this date.

Why do things need to change?

There is a general increase in people needing CHC due to a large number of people living longer and/or with complex needs. With more people eligible for CHC, we need to make sure we can provide the best possible care for everyone who receives it: **our system needs to be fair and equitable for all.**



We are also making sure our system is more responsive to people's needs and reflects the changing needs of individuals, therefore providing greater flexibility than at present.

What will change?

We have a responsibility to provide CHC packages that are focused on the needs of each individual patient. That means making decisions based on what mix of services will provide the best possible care for each person and not relying on pre-packaged care costs. We need to ensure that we provide the most cost effective care for each patient so that we can continue to provide care for everyone who needs it.



From 1st April 2016, Castle Point and Rochford CCG will be assessing all those patients who are newly eligible for CHC and agreeing the funding of the most appropriate and cost effective care following consultations with the patient, their families and carers, as well as the health professionals currently involved in their care.

Our system will encourage care providers to offer competitive rates – we will obtain quotes for the necessary care for each patient and the amount of funding we then allocate to patients will be based on the most cost effective option. We hope that this new way of allocating CHC budgets will bring about a change in the market place for CHC, with individuals having much more control over their own care plans and therefore more positive outcomes in the long term.

How will the CCG provide CHC?

We will work with the individual to assess and agree what care is necessary to ensure their needs are met. Here is an example of how the process will work:



Tom's story

Tom has been assessed as being eligible for CHC. He has multiple care needs which means that he needs round the clock care.

Castle Point and Rochford CCG meets with Tom, his family and carers as well as the professionals currently involved in his care plan to discuss what options are available for Tom.

Following the meeting, Castle Point and Rochford CCG speak to a range of domiciliary and residential care providers to identify what costs are associated with the various care options and develop an indicative budget which meets Tom's specific needs. This budget will be based on the most cost effective option plus 10% - how Tom uses this money to pay for his care is up to him.

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Castle Point and Rochford CCG will then meet with Tom once again to discuss how Tom could use his allocated budget to meet his care needs in a way that suits him. The options could include:



Tom can decide to move into a residential setting within the Castle Point and Rochford area which will provide all the care he needs 24/7.



Tom might decide that he wishes to stay in his own home. He could use his allocated budget to pay for a live in carer or have carers visit him as many times as he needs. In this case, any additional costs for care that are not covered by his allocated budget may need to be met by Tom.



Tom can also decide how he wishes his budget to be managed. He may wish for all his arrangements and payments to be managed by the CCG or a third party. However he could choose to receive his money in the form of a **Personal Health Budget**, giving him control over how he spends his money. Again this could be to pay for a residential setting, care provided within his home or any other solution that meets his unique care needs.

Every single case is unique and Castle Point and Rochford CCG will allocate budgets based solely on the individual's specific health and care needs – the money we provide will always meet the identified needs of the patient but cannot cover specific requests or desires that are over and above this. This will ensure that the pot of money we have to provide CHC provides the appropriate care for every member of our community who requires CHC.

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