

Integrated Impact Assessment Tool - Stage 1 Pro Forma

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| <p>Title of Project: Future commissioning arrangements – Berkshire West Hydrotherapy services</p> <p>Brief Description of project: Hydrotherapy is the use of water in the treatment of different conditions, including arthritis, muscular skeletal and neurological conditions. Hydrotherapy differs from swimming because it involves special exercises completed in a pool with a physiotherapist, with the water temperature at 33-36C, which is warmer than a typical swimming pool. Hydrotherapy is a specialist service which can be of clinical benefit (albeit limited – see report) to a small number of patients for a limited period as part of their rehabilitation.</p> <p>The Covid pandemic has led to changes to the way patients can access services and receive treatment, and some services have been stopped to keep patients safe. From March 2020 the Hydrotherapy service provided at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH) has been closed in line with their Covid infection control policy. Due to ongoing challenges and potentially open-ended nature of this pandemic it has prompted the CCG to examine the future options for commissioning hydrotherapy.</p> <p>It was agreed in July 2020 by the Berkshire West CCG Governing Body that, given the context above, a 12 week full public consultation should be undertaken to determine the future of this service. The consultation commenced on the 10th August and concluded on the 2nd November 2020. In total 498 responses were received to the survey; 496 using the Survey Monkey link online and 2 received either by hard copy or e mail, as well as 9 additional full written responses from organisations/individuals representing patients. Of this number 217 (or 44%) had used the NHS Hydrotherapy services and 279 (56%) hadn't.</p> <p>It should be noted that on analysis of these numbers it has become evident that of the 496 online responses 34 IP addresses were used more than once to submit a survey, one of which was used 28 times (to a total of 166 responses). This could be due to multiple responses from one person or one person submitting responses on behalf of others</p> <p>Of this total number of responses, only a small number (59) identified as being an NHS patient who had been prescribed Hydrotherapy by a clinician. However, 11 have suggested in their response they haven't used the pool and a further 11 used the pool but with a voluntary organisation. Therefore, it cannot be assumed their answers wholly relate to the NHS service. The vast majority responded in a personal capacity as an interested member of the public (258) or other (124) which included a mix of health professionals and voluntary groups.</p> <p>The analysis report following these responses alongside clinical evidence and patient reported benefits have been considered in proposing the following 3 options;</p> | <p>Project Lead: Caroline Tack</p> <p>Intended QI outcomes: The intended outcome of this work is to ascertain if any of the proposed options would directly discriminate against any patients with the protected characteristics or negatively impact on quality outcomes for patients. This will then be fed into the decision making process around the future provision of Hydrotherapy Services in Berkshire West.</p> |
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| <p>Option 1 - Continue to commission Hydrotherapy services as part of the block contract arrangement with RBFT. EQIA completed for this option.</p> <p>Option 2 – Continue to commission hydrotherapy services but on an alternative purchasing basis – an EQIA would need to be undertaken as part of the process to identify alternative providers.</p> <p>Option 3a - Continue to commission hydrotherapy services but on an alternative purchasing basis with clear clinical criteria and a prior approval process prior to treatment to confirm compliance with criteria - an EQIA would need to be undertaken as part of the process to identify and confirm alternative provider(s) but has been completed for the second part of this option.</p> <p>Option 3b – Commission Hydrotherapy services but on an alternative purchasing basis only when exceptionality can be demonstrated via an individual funding request - an EQIA would need to be undertaken as part of the process to identify and confirm alternative provider(s) but has been completed for the second part of this option.</p> | |
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Option 1 - Continue to commission Hydrotherapy services as part of the block contract arrangement with RBFT

| Area of Quality | Impact Question | Impact | Likelihood | Score | Stage 2 req? | Rationale for scoring |
|--|---|--------|------------|-------|--------------|--|
| Duty of Quality - Could the proposal impact negatively on: | Compliance with the NHS Constitution? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | No change to current service provision |
| | Partnerships? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | No change to current service provision |
| | Safeguarding children or adults? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | No change to current service provision |
| NHS Outcomes Framework – Could the proposal impact negatively on: | Preventing people from dying prematurely? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | No change to current service provision, however, the service remains closed due to Covid Infection control policy. |
| | Enhancing quality of life? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | No change to current service provision, however, the service remains closed due to Covid Infection control policy. |
| | Helping people recover from episodes of ill health or following injury? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | No change to current service provision, however, the service remains closed due to Covid Infection control policy. Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited. Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continue to be offered as it is currently. |
| | Ensuring people have a positive experience of care? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | No change to current service provision, however, the service remains closed due to Covid Infection control policy |
| | Treating & caring for people in a safe environment & protecting them from avoidable harm? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | No change to current service provision, however, the service remains closed due to Covid Infection control policy. Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited. Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continued to be offered as it is currently. |
| Access | Could the proposal impact negatively on patient choice? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | No change to current service provision, however, the service remains closed due to Covid Infection control policy. Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited. Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continued to be offered as it is currently. |
| | Could the proposal impact negatively on access? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | No change to current service provision, however, the service remains closed due to Covid Infection control policy. Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited. Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support |

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| | | | | | | land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continued to be offered as it is currently. |
| | Could the proposal impact negatively on integration? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | |
| Duty of Equality Could the proposal impact negatively on: | Age? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The service is utilised by a range of age groups with no one group represented more than others. |
| | Disability? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | This information was not available from RBFT however it could be assumed from the specialties that use the service e.g. MSK and Neurology that a percentage would have a form of disability. Nevertheless alternative land based physio would be provided as an alternative. |
| | Race? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The majority of patients identified as White British. As stated above, all patients would be offered alternative land based physio services. |
| | Religion or belief? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | This information was not available from RBFT. |
| | Sex? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The majority of patients identified as Female. This may be due to the use of the pool as an aquanatal service. All patients would be offered alternative land based physio services. |
| | Sexual orientation? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | This information was not available from RBFT. |
| | Gender re-assignment? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | This information was not available from RBFT. |
| | Pregnancy or maternity? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | The majority of patients identified as Female. This may be due to the use of the pool as an aquanatal service. All patients would be offered alternative land based physio services. |
| | Marriage & civil partnership? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The majority of patients identified as single. All patients would be offered alternative land based physio services. |

Option 3a - Continue to commission hydrotherapy services but on an alternative purchasing basis with clear clinical criteria and a prior approval process prior to treatment to confirm compliance with criteria

| Area of Quality | Impact Question | Impact | Likelihood | Score | Stage 2 req? | Rationale for scoring |
|---|---|--------|------------|-------|--------------|---|
| Duty of Quality - Could the proposal impact negatively on: | Compliance with the NHS Constitution? | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continued to be offered as it is currently. Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited and would be provided where clinical criteria was met. Hydrotherapy provided subject to approval from the CCG. |
| | Partnerships? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | |
| | Safeguarding children or adults? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | |
| NHS Outcomes Framework – Could the proposal impact negatively on: | Preventing people from dying prematurely? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | Hydrotherapy is not proven to prevent premature death |
| | Enhancing quality of life? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | People's quality of life may be negatively impacted, if land based physio is the only treatment offered/available and they are unable to participate in this. This will impact on their health and wellbeing outcomes. Mitigated through access to hydrotherapy via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
| | Helping people recover from episodes of ill health or following injury? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | People's recovery from ill health or injury may be negatively impacted, if only land based physio is the treatment available/offered and they are unable to engage with this treatment; this will impact on their recovery and health and well-being outcomes. Mitigated through access to hydrotherapy via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
| | Ensuring people have a positive experience of care? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | People's experience of their care may be negatively impacted, if only land based physio is offered/available and they are unable to engage with this treatment; this will impact on health and wellbeing outcomes. Mitigated through access to hydrotherapy via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
| | Treating & caring for people in a safe environment & protecting them from avoidable harm? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited. Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continued to be offered as it is currently. Mitigated through access to Hydrotherapy via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |

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| Access | Could the proposal impact negatively on patient choice? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | Access to hydrotherapy via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
| | Could the proposal impact negatively on access? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | Access to hydrotherapy via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
| | Could the proposal impact negatively on integration? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | |
| Duty of Equality Could the proposal impact negatively on: | Age? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The service is utilised by a range of age groups with no one group represented more than others. |
| | Disability? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | This information was not available from RBFT however it could be assumed from the specialties that use the service e.g. MSK and Neurology that a percentage would have a form of disability. Nevertheless access to hydrotherapy would be available via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria alternative land based physio would be provided as an alternative. |
| | Race? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The majority of patients identified as White British. As stated above, all patients would be offered alternative land based physio services or access to hydrotherapy would be available via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
| | Religion or belief? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | This information was not available from RBFT but as with the equality domains all patients would be offered alternative land based physio services or access to hydrotherapy would be available via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
| | Sex? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | The majority of patients identified as Female. This may be due to the use of the pool as an aquanatal service. All patients would be offered alternative land based physio services or access to hydrotherapy would be available via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
| | Sexual orientation? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | This information was not available from RBFT but as with the equality domains all patients would be offered alternative land based physio services or access to hydrotherapy would be available via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria.. |
| | Gender re-assignment? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | This information was not available from RBFT but as with the equality domains all patients would be offered alternative land based physio services or access to hydrotherapy would be available via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
| | Pregnancy or maternity? | 2 | 2 | 4 | No | The majority of patients identified as Female. This may be due to the use of the pool as an aquanatal service. All patients would be offered alternative land based physio services or access to hydrotherapy would be available via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |

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| | Marriage & civil partnership? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The majority of patients identified as single. All patients regardless of marital status would be offered alternative land based physio services or access to hydrotherapy would be available via prior approval process and adoption of clinical criteria. |
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Option 3b - Commission Hydrotherapy services but on an alternative purchasing basis only when exceptionality can be demonstrated via an individual funding request

| Area of Quality | Impact Question | Impact | Likelihood | Score | Stage 2 req? | Rationale for scoring |
|--|---|--------|------------|-------|--------------|--|
| Duty of Quality - Could the proposal impact negatively on: | Compliance with the NHS Constitution? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continued to be offered as it is currently. Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited and would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Partnerships? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | |
| | Safeguarding children or adults? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | |
| NHS Outcomes Framework – Could the proposal impact negatively on: | Preventing people from dying prematurely? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | Hydrotherapy is not proven to prevent premature death |
| | Enhancing quality of life? | 3 | 2 | 6 | No | People's quality of life may be negatively impacted, if land based physio is the only treatment offered/available and they are unable to participate in this. This will impact on their health and wellbeing outcomes. However, hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Helping people recover from episodes of ill health or following injury? | 3 | 2 | 6 | No | People's recovery from ill health or injury may be negatively impacted, if only land based physio is the treatment available/offered and they are unable to engage with this treatment; this will impact on their recovery and health and well-being outcomes. However, hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Ensuring people have a positive experience of care? | 3 | 2 | 6 | No | People's experience of their care may be negatively impacted, if only land based physio is offered/available and they are unable to engage with this treatment; this will impact on health and wellbeing outcomes. However, hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Treating & caring for people in a safe environment & protecting them from avoidable harm? | 2 | 3 | 6 | No | Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited. Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected |

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| | | | | | | and will continued to be offered as it is currently. However, hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| Access | Could the proposal impact negatively on patient choice? | 2 | 4 | 8 | Yes | Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited. Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continued to be offered as it is currently. However, hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Could the proposal impact negatively on access? | 2 | 4 | 8 | Yes | Clinical evidence supporting the benefits of hydrotherapy is limited. Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continued to be offered as it is currently. However, hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Could the proposal impact negatively on integration? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | |
| Duty of Equality | Age? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The service is utilised by a range of age groups with no one group represented more than others. |
| Could the proposal impact negatively on: | Disability? | 4 | 2 | 8 | Yes | This information was not available from RBFT however it could be assumed from the specialties that use the service e.g. MSK and Neurology that a percentage would have a form of disability. Hydrotherapy is offered as an adjunct modality to support land based physiotherapy, which will not be affected and will continued to be offered as it is currently. However, hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Race? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The majority of patients identified as White British. As stated above, all patients would be offered alternative land based physiotherapy services or hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Religion or belief? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | This information was not available from RBFT. As stated above, all patients would be offered alternative land based physiotherapy services or hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Sex? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The majority of patients identified as Female. This may be due to the use of the pool as an aquanatal service. All |

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| | | | | | | patients would be offered alternative land based physio services or hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Sexual orientation? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | This information was not available from RBFT. As stated above, all patients would be offered alternative land based physiotherapy services or hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Gender re-assignment? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | This information was not available from RBFT. As stated above, all patients would be offered alternative land based physiotherapy services or hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Pregnancy or maternity? | 3 | 2 | 6 | No | The majority of patients identified as Female. This may be due to the use of the pool as an aquanatal service. As stated above, all patients would be offered alternative land based physiotherapy services or hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
| | Marriage & civil partnership? | 1 | 1 | 1 | No | The majority of patients identified as single. As stated above, all patients would be offered alternative land based physiotherapy services or hydrotherapy would be provided in cases of exceptionality where clinical benefit can be demonstrated by a referring clinician. |
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Name of person completing assessment: Caroline Tack

Date of assessment: 16th November 2020