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COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP BOARD Agenda

- Date Thursday 17 February 2022
- Time 1.00 pm
- Venue Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL
- Notes
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Paul Entwistle or Elizabeth Drogan at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is Tel. 0161 770 5151 or email elizabeth.drogan@oldham.gov.uk
 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12 noon on Monday, 14 February 2022
 4. FILMING - The Council, members of the public and the press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

Please note that anyone using recording equipment both audio and visual will not be permitted to leave the equipment in the room where a private meeting is held.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Councillors Chauhan, Moores and Shah
CCG Majid Hussain, Dr. Ian Milnes, Dr. John Patterson and Kate Rigden

Item No

1 Election of Chair

The Panel is asked to elect a Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2 Apologies For Absence

3 Urgent Business

Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair

4 Declarations of Interest

To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 4)

The Minutes of the meeting of the Commissioning Partnership Board held on 27th January 2022 are attached for approval.

6 Public Question Time

To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

7 Construction Framework, Disabled Facilities Grants (Pages 5 - 12)

8 Contract extension request for the provision of stairlifts, ceiling track hoists, vertical and step lifts and gantry hoists in domestic properties where residents have disabilities. (Pages 13 - 18)

9 Exclusion of the Press and Public

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

10 Contract extension request for the provision of stairlifts, ceiling track hoists, vertical and step lifts and gantry hoists in domestic properties where residents have disabilities. (Pages 19 - 26)

COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP BOARD
27/01/2022 at 1.00pm



Oldham
Council

Present: Councillor Chadderton, Councillor Shah, Mr Majid Hussain, Dr I. Milnes, Dr J. Patterson and Ms. K. Rigden

Also in Attendance:

Mike Barker - Strategic Director of Commissioning/Chief Operating Officer

Graham Foulkes - Lay Member for Patient and Public Involvement

Anne Ryans - Director of Finance

Claire Smith - Director of Nursing and Quality

Mark Warren - Managing Director Community Health and Adult Social Care

Peter Thompson – Constitutional Services

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Resolved:

That Mr Majid Hussain be elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chauhan, Councillor Moores and Gerard Jones.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

5 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions to be considered at this meeting.

6 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Commissioning Partnership Board, held 21st October 2021, be approved as a correct record.

7 **APPROVAL OF SECTION 75 LEGAL AGREEMENT**

The Board considered a joint report of the Director of Finance (Oldham Council) and the Chief Finance Officer (Oldham CCG) that sought approval for the final version of the 2021/22 Oldham Section 75 legal document and financial contributions of the Oldham CCG and Oldham Council. The report also updated the Commissioning Partnership Board on proposals for the final version of the Section 75 legal agreement.

The Board were advised that section 75 (S.75) agreements existed between Local Authorities and the NHS nationally for the pooling of budgets to facilitate closer working. Oldham Council and Oldham CCG had been entered into such an agreement for some years. Originally the S.75 agreement covered expenditure funded by the Better Care Fund. The agreement was initially expanded to include the Improved Better Care Fund and the Winter Resilience Grant. The Council and the CCG had subsequently chosen to further widen the scope of the agreement to incorporate several areas where services were commissioned jointly. The main purpose was to facilitate a whole system approach to deliver care where and how it can be best delivered to the citizens of Oldham.

The report emphasised that Oldham system had a strong history of joint working and of different organisations providing support where flexibility allowed.

Contributions for the Council and CCG had been updated based on 2021/22 budgets, as reported, and agreed by each organisation separately. The Council's contribution was based on the same principles and services that were incorporated into the 2020/21 agreement.

The CCG's contribution to the S.75 agreement had been enhanced for 2021/22 as part of an increase to the "Pooled Aligned" budget. This changed the scope of the agreement so that the CCG's contribution was expanded from set items, to broadly include all items which could be legally included in the pooled fund. However, this only represented the production of further items of expenditure into the view of the Council; it did not create new expenditure or create a new risk for the Council.

It was reported that both parties potentially had the scope to vary their contributions over the course of the financial year. Both Oldham Council and Oldham CCG requested approval to delegate jointly to the Council's Director of Finance and to Oldham CCG's Chief Financial Officer to agree the management of 'year-end' flexibilities.

Resolved:

1. That the Board notes the strong history of joint working and funding arrangements in Health and Social Care in Oldham.
2. That the Board approves the continuation of the Scheme for Hospital Discharge Programme funding as described below and included as "Scheme D" in the Section 75 documentation.
3. That the Board notes the significant challenges in Oldham Council's long term financial position and specifically the increases in funding that it has provided to Adult Social Care over the past several years.
4. That the Board approves the Section 75 Agreement as attached at Appendix 1, of the submitted report, and

specifically the intention to adopt a flexible approach to contributions to support delivery of the best services for Oldham residents.

5. That the Board authorises Oldham Council's Director of Legal Services to sign the Section 75 Agreement on behalf of Oldham Council.
6. That the Board delegates approval jointly to Oldham Council's Director of Finance and to Oldham CCG's Chief Finance Officer to finalise the financial expenditure and contribution figures included at Schedule 8 of Appendix 1, of the submitted report, as part of the year-end processes.



Oldham
Council

The meeting started at 1.00pm and ended at 1.40pm.

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Decision Maker	Commissioning Partnership Board (CPB)
Date of Decision:	17th February 2022
Subject:	Construction Framework, Disabled Facilities Grants: A) Request to approve a variation and six-month extension to a Framework Agreement for the provision of adaptations for construction related works to domestic properties where residents have disabilities B) Request for Delegated Authority for the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care to award the new Framework Agreement
Report Author:	Commissioning Managers: Fateha Khanom and Lynda Megram, Oldham Cares

Reason for the decision:	To seek approval to vary and formalise a six-month extension to a Framework Agreement which is due to expire on 31 st May 2022 with no further option to extend. The Framework Agreement is for the provision of level access showers and showers over baths, which are the most common types of adaptations undertaken where disabled residents require an adaptation to their home to enable them to remain living as independently as possible in their communities. Secondly, to seek approval for Delegated Authority for the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care to approve the tender procedure and award a new Framework Agreement on completion of the tender to prevent further delays to implementation of new arrangements.
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Summary:	Cabinet approved the award of the current Framework Agreement on 25 th June 2018, to six suppliers. This has now reduced to 4 suppliers who are allocated work on a rotation basis, with prices defined via a fixed pricing schedule issued in the tender documents. A project team has been formed to guide the retendering of the provision with representation from Commissioning, Procurement, Legal, and the Equipment and Adaptations team from Miocare. Scoping has begun to re-tender the provision however due to the impact of Covid, officers have been prioritising the continuation of delivering essential services which has delayed the design and implementation of the tender process.
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What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

- A) Allow the Framework Agreement to expire and cease provision.

This is not the preferred option as the legislative framework governing Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) places a statutory duty on the council to approve an 'eligible application'. The provision to undertake the duty must therefore be available to those who qualify.

- B) To approve a six-month extension to the Framework Agreement for the provision of adaptations for construction related works to domestic properties where residents have disabilities, and approval for Delegated Authority for the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care to approve the tender procedure (in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules) and award the new Framework Agreement to the successful contractors.

This is the preferred option as this ensures that the council can meet its statutory duty to approve an eligible DFG application and provide adaptations to those residents who need them to remain living as independently as possible in their own homes and communities. This also enables the council to have sufficient time to re-tender the provision to a high standard whilst meeting procurement legislation.

Recommendation(s):

Option B: To approve a six-month extension to the Framework Agreement for the provision of adaptations for construction related works to domestic properties where residents have disabilities, and approval for Delegated Authority for the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care to approve the tender procedure (in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules) and award the new Framework Agreement to the successful contractors.

Implications:

*What are the **financial** implications?*

The commissioning team are seeking approval to extend the contract for the provision of level access showers and showers over baths for a 6-month period covering 1st June 2022 until 30th November 2022.

The contract is costed to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) capital fund, which is part of the Better Care Fund, a pooled budget with the CCG.

The costs of the contract for the 4 remaining suppliers operating in the market is shown in table 1 below. The table also shows the total DFG spend per year with forecast expenditure of £0.535m reported in the month 9 monitor for the current year. Projected spend is within budget and whilst the service is somewhat demand-led, expenditure is consistent with previous years activity. The 2022/23 DFG allocation has yet to be notified but it is anticipated that following the publication of the adult social care reform white paper additional funding will be made available.

There are no adverse effects to the overall budget expected in 2022/23.

Table 1

	2020/21	2021/22 (up until 31/12/21)	2021/22 Forecast Outturn
	£m	£m	£m
Cost of Contract	£0.559	£0.399	£0.535
Total DFG Budget	£2.300	£2.010	£2.010

(Andy Pearson, Accountant)

What are the **procurement** implications?

It is not feasible to conduct a diligent and informed procurement process to replace the current Framework Agreements (previous procurement reference DN311186) before their expiry (31st May 2022).

The variation and extension of time will enable the delivery team to ensure the most appropriate and effective procurement and commercial strategy is devised and delivered: Provision is made for local and SME market engagement, to stimulate competition and generate sufficient market interest in the opportunity so as to deliver a value for money framework, sustainable and fit for purpose for its duration. Bespoke specification, tender and contract documents will need to be developed in consultation with stakeholders and Legal Services, before a robust procurement process is carried out in full compliance with the Council's Contract Procedural Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as applicable). Based on the nature and value of the requirements (estimated to be in the region of £2.25m excl VAT for four years *based on historical spend data*), this will be a below-threshold 'works'

tender advertised on Contracts Finder and The Chest. Figures provided estimate the value of the six month extension to be less than 50% of the original contract value; noted below in Legal commentary as a modification rule. (Emma Tweedie, Commercial Procurement).

*What are the **legal** implications?*

Rule 17.1(c) of the Contract Procedure Rules allows for a contract to be modified where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (i) the need for the Modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen;
- (ii) the Modification does not alter the overall nature of the Contract;
- (iii) any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the original contract value.

The unforeseeable circumstances brought about by Covid-19 are as detailed in this report. The impact of Covid-19 has been vast and far reaching and it has delayed a number of tender procedures. The Council is able to approve a modification which is reasonable in the circumstances and extend the term of the contract for no longer than is absolutely necessary. A 6 month extension would allow sufficient time for a new tender exercise to be developed and completed and new contracts to be put in place.

Regarding the proposal to delegate authority for new Framework Agreements to be awarded; the tender procedure for the upcoming procurement will be led by the Corporate Procurement Unit and will be conducted in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules, in consultation with Finance, Legal Services and all relevant stakeholders. The form of contract will be drafted by Legal Services and issued with the tender documents (Sarah Orrell, Commercial and Procurement Solicitor).

*What are the **Human Resources** implications?*

N/A

***Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment** attached or not required because (please give reason)*

No: an EIA has not been completed as the proposal enables continuity of statutory provision of adaptations to improve the independence, health, and wellbeing of people with disabilities, and to enable them to remain living for as long as possible in their own homes. The provision is available to disabled children and adults with an assessed / eligible need.

*What are the **property** implications?*

None: the provision is installed in recipients own domestic properties.

Risks:

There are no risks identified from pursuing the preferred option.

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution/CCG's Standing Orders? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the S.75 budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council/CCG? No

Reason(s) for exemption from publication: N/A

Reason why this is a Key Decision (1) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure or the making of savings which are, significant (over £250k) having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates;

The Key Decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **five working days** have elapsed from the publication date of the decision, i.e. **before 1st March 2022**, unless exempt from call-in.

This item has been included on the Forward Plan under reference: CPB-01-21.

There are no background papers for this report

Report Author Sign-off:	
F Khanom and LV Megram	Date: 7th January 2022

Please list any appendices: -

Appendix number or letter	Description
N/A	N/A

1. Background:

- 1.1 To seek approval to award a six-month extension to a Framework Agreement which is due to expire on the 31st May 2022 with no further option to extend, therefore an exemption the councils contract procedure rules would be required. The framework is for the provision of adaptations to domestic properties where residents have disabilities and require an adaptation to their home to enable them to remain living as independently as possible in their communities.
- 1.2 The suppliers in the framework provide adaptations under Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) arrangements. A DFG helps towards the cost of adapting a person's home to enable the occupant to continue to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible, in their community and can reduce the requirement for Health and Social Care support. The adaptations delivered via the Framework Agreement are installing level access showers and showers over baths, which are the most common types of adaptations required. Separate arrangements are in place for other areas of adaptation activity such as provision of stairlifts, ceiling track hoists etc and for complex/large extensions to properties.
- 1.3 The legislative framework governing DFGs places a statutory duty on the council to approve an eligible application within six months. An application cannot be refused because of insufficient funds, provided that the adaptation is deemed:
 - 'necessary and appropriate' to meet the disabled applicant's needs
 - 'reasonable and practicable' in relation to the individual propertyAn assessment by an Occupational Therapist is usually undertaken to establish if the works are 'necessary and appropriate' and by a surveyor / technical officer to establish if the work can 'reasonably and practicably' be done to a particular property. The maximum grant is currently £30,000 (inclusive of VAT and fees).
- 1.4 DFG funding was traditionally received by councils as a capital grant from Government, but since 2015/16 the allocation was included in the Better Care Fund (BCF). The BCF operates under section 75 pooled budget arrangements between Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Councils and is expected to facilitate better integrated care and joint strategic planning of investment. However, the statutory duty on local housing authorities to provide DFGs to those who qualify remains, therefore each area must allocate funds from the pooled budget to their respective housing authorities to enable them to continue to meet these duties. In 2018/19 the DFG grant allocation to Oldham was £1,913,889. This rose to £2,065,201 in 2019/20 and 2020/21 with a further increase to £2,342,287 in 2021/22.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Cabinet awarded the current Framework Agreement on 25th June 2018, to six suppliers. This has now reduced to 4 suppliers who are allocated work on a rotation basis, with prices defined via a fixed pricing schedule issued in the tender documents. The provision is primarily demand-led so levels of activity/spend varies, and Covid-19 has impacted on delivery of all types of installations/adaptations - making predicting demand and spend more difficult. The impact of Covid on supplies and costs led to the council approving an uplift to the fixed pricing schedule in December 2021 to stabilize the supply of this essential provision; this was replicated in most other Greater Manchester authorities who were experiencing similar challenges. The average number of level access showers currently ordered per month is five and spend under these arrangements is expected to be circa £600,000 in 2021/22.
- 2.2 A project team has been formed to guide the retendering of the provision with representation from Commissioning, Procurement, Legal, and the Equipment and Adaptations team from Miocare. Consultation and benchmarking with neighbouring local authorities has taken

place and the project team are considering extensive market engagement options due to the accelerated changes in the market as result of Covid.

3. Conclusions and recommendations:

- 3.1 The Commissioning Partnership Board is asked to approve the six-month extension to the Framework Agreement and approval for Delegated Authority for the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care to award the new Framework Agreement as this enables:
- Cost avoidance in the wider health and social care system - by ensuring continuity of provision that supports people with disabilities to better manage their conditions and remain living as independently as possible in their own homes, helping to avoid the need for increased care packages or residential care
 - A reasonable timeframe to consider the tender / procurement options fully which is essential due to the accelerated changes in the market because of Covid. This is likely to result in better value for money whilst delivering an improved service for residents
 - Avoidance of delays through the approval of delegated authority to award a new Framework agreement following the procurement process

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Decision Maker	Commissioning Partnership Board
Date of Decision:	17th February 2022
Subject:	Contract extension request for the provision of stairlifts, ceiling track hoists, vertical and step lifts and gantry hoists in domestic properties where residents have disabilities.
Report Author:	Commissioning Managers: Fateha Khanom and Lynda Megram, Oldham Cares

Reason for the decision:	To seek approval to extend a contract for the provision of stairlifts, ceiling track hoists, vertical and step lifts and gantry hoists. This report requests approval to extend the contract by a further, final year, from 1 st June 2022 to 31 st May 2023.
Summary:	<p>The Commissioning Partnership Board (CPB) agreed that the Council award a contract for 'provision of stairlifts, ceiling track hoists, vertical and step lifts and gantry hoists in domestic properties where residents have disabilities', on 28th March 2019, to commence on or after 1st June 2019 for two years with an option to extend by an additional two years on one-year increments. CPB agreed to extend the contract by one year to 31st May 2022 and this report requests approval to extend by one final year. The contract is held by four suppliers who each hold one of four Lots.</p> <p>The provision is funded from the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) capital allocation within the Better Care Fund. The legislative framework governing DFGs places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to approve an 'eligible application'. Provision to undertake the duty must therefore be available. Oldham Council led on the procurement for the Council and for Tameside Council, who confirm their support for the requested extension.</p>

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

- a) Not to approve the contract extension and allow the provision to cease.
This option is not recommended, as the legislative framework governing DFGs places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide DFGs to those who qualify; provision to fulfil the duty must therefore be available.
- b) Not to extend the current contract and retender the provision solely for Oldham.
This is not the preferred option, as officers from both authorities believe that the current joint arrangements with Tameside Council provides better value than tendering for one borough alone.
- c) To extend the current contract by a further year, from 1st June 2022 to 31st May 2023.
This is the preferred option, as this enables continuity of provision which enables Local Authorities to meet their statutory duty to provide DFGs to those who qualify. Tameside have confirmed that they support the preferred option.

Recommendation(s):

To approve option C i.e. To extend the current contract by a further year, from 1st June 2022 to 31st May 2023.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

The commissioning team are seeking approval to extend the contract for stairlifts, ceiling track hoists, step lifts and gantry hoists for a further year covering 1st June 2022 until 31st May 2023.

The contract is costed to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) capital fund, which is part of the Better Care Fund, a pooled budget with the CCG.

The costs of the contract is shown in table 1 below. The table also shows the total DFG spend per year with forecast expenditure of £0.537m reported in the month 9 monitor for the current year. Projected spend is within budget and whilst the service is somewhat demand-led, expenditure is consistent with previous years activity. The 2022/23 DFG allocation has yet to be notified but it is anticipated that following the publication of the adult social care reform white paper additional funding will be made available.

There are no adverse effects to the overall budget expected in 2022/23.

Table 1:

	2020/21 £m	2021/22 (up until 31/12/21) £m	2021/22 Forecast Outturn £m
Cost of Contract	£0.592	£0.403	£0.537
Total DFG Budget	£2.300	£2.010	£2.010

(Andy Pearson)

What are the **procurement** implications?

Provision exists in the current contract to extend this arrangement for a final year in line with the recommendations in this report to start a new service from 01.06.2023. The Commercial Procurement Unit therefore supports the recommendations in this report. The Commercial Procurement Unit recommends the following future actions:

- a. Clear KPI's must be agreed with the Provider and the Commissioning Team to manages and monitors KPI's
- b. The setting up of a working group involving the Procurement Team at an early stage ensuring no further requests will be made to extend this contract in the future.
- c. Ensure appropriate consultation is undertaken at pre-procurement stage with the provider market.
(Mohammad Sharif)

What are the **legal** implications?

If the contracts make provision for an additional term of 1 year and the Council is satisfied with the standards under the contracts, there are no legal implications in approving the proposed extension.
(Sarah Orrell)

What are the **Human Resources** implications?

N/A

Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached or not required because (please give reason)

No: an EIA has not been completed as the proposal enables continuity of statutory provision of adaptations to improve the independence, health, and wellbeing of people with disabilities, and to enable them to remain living for as long as possible in their own homes. The provision is available to disabled children and adults with an assessed / eligible need.

What are the **property** implications?

None: the provision is installed in recipients own

domestic properties.

Risks:

There are no risks identified from pursuing the preferred option.

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution/CCG's Standing Orders? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the S.75 budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council/CCG? No

Reason(s) for exemption from publication:

Reason why this Is a Key Decision (1) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure or the making of savings which are, significant (over £250k) having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; and

The Key Decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **five working days** have elapsed from the publication date of the decision, i.e., **before 1st March 2022**, unless exempt from call-in.

This item has been included on the Forward Plan under reference: **HSC-07-21**.

There are no background papers for this report

Report Author Sign-off:	
F Khanom and LV Megram	Date: 05.01.22

Please list any appendices: -

Appendix number or letter	Description
N/A	N/A

1. Background:

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to extend a contract for provision of stairlifts, ceiling track hoists, vertical and step lifts and gantry hoists in domestic properties where residents have disabilities. The contract is held by four suppliers who each hold one of four Lots. The Commissioning Partnership Board awarded the contract on 28th March 2019, to commence on or after 1st June 2019 for two years with an option to extend by an additional two years on one-year increments. Commissioning Partnership Board approved a year's extension (to 31st May 2022) at its meeting on 29th April 2021; this report requests approval to extend the contract by a further, final year, from 1st June 2022 to 31st May 2023. This will allow continuity of essential provision whilst officers consider procurement options for new arrangements from 1st June 2023.
- 1.2 The provision is funded from the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) capital allocation within the Better Care Fund operating under section 75 NHS Act 2006 pooled budget arrangements between Clinical Commissioning Groups and Councils. This provides funding to adapt a disabled person's home - where an assessed need has been identified - to enable the occupant to continue to live as independently as possible in their own homes. The legislative framework governing DFGs places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to provide DFGs to those who qualify: i.e. where the council considers the adaptation to be 'necessary and appropriate to meet the disabled applicant's needs' and 'reasonable and practicable in relation to the age and condition of the property'. Provision to undertake the duty must therefore be available.
- 1.3 Oldham Council led on the procurement exercise for Oldham and Tameside boroughs and hold the contract: however, there is no pooling of budgets between the two authorities, with each area paying for its own activity. Oldham has a history of collaboration with Tameside Council on contracts relating to DFG provision, as we have similar local arrangements, demands and requirements. It is considered by both local authorities that the advantages gained through economy of scale in letting larger contracts across both areas has resulted in better value for money, and more robust and well-run contracts, to the benefit of both Authorities. Tameside have confirmed that they also want to extend the contract for its final year whilst both authorities consider the best procurement route for future provision.

2 Current position:

- 2.1 The contract was awarded to four suppliers who each hold one of four Lots:
- Lot 1 - Stairlifts: Platinum Stairlifts Ltd
 - Lot 2 - Ceiling track hoists: Handicare Accessibility Ltd. NB: the council authorized novation of the contract for Lot 2, from Handicare Accessibility Limited to Direct Healthcare Group Ltd, with effect from 1 September 2021.
 - Lot 3 - Vertical and step lifts: Wessex Lifts Ltd
 - Lot 4 - Temporary free standing and pressure fit Gantry hoists: Prism UK Medical Ltd
- 2.2 Each Lot of the contract includes the supply and installation of the provision, all with 'life of client' warranty: this places responsibility for the maintenance/replacement of installed equipment on the contractor for as long as the recipient needs the

provision, thus securing long term revenue savings for each local authority, who would otherwise have to fund this aspect from revenue. The contract was Lotted because no single provider supplies all these specialist pieces of equipment: the specialist nature of this provision was reflected in the low number of bidders (5 in total) and that all the companies are national / international suppliers. Lot 4 has not been used by Oldham: it was requested by Tameside to pilot 'single-handed' care arrangements i.e., trialing the installation for a fixed period and replacing it with a permanent ceiling track hoist if it proved successful in reducing the need for a mobile hoist/associated care package. Oldham seldom requires this type of hoist, though we retain some via our community equipment contract to facilitate speedy temporary arrangements where required.

- 2.3 The provision is primarily demand-led so levels of activity/spend can vary, and patterns of need and demand have been disrupted since Covid-19 and lockdown which impacted on delivery of all types of installations/adaptations. Despite this, installations and spend have increased under these arrangements. Prior to these contractual arrangements, spend in 2018/19 on this provision was £384,868 for Oldham and £382,433 for Tameside. Both authorities anticipate spend of circa £400+k in 2022-23, as both aim to further reduce revenue costs by replacing older equipment that is currently on a service and maintenance contract, funded from revenue, with this provision.
- 2.4. The suppliers have provided added value; however, it has proven difficult to employ local people as these suppliers are mainly specialist, nationally based organizations, and although some apprenticeship opportunities have been offered these have not proved popular for similar reasons. The suppliers have held online 'training sessions' on their products for Occupational Therapists and Technical Officers from Oldham and Tameside. They have also taken part in 'speed interviewing' / career days and mock interviews for students across both boroughs. Both boroughs consider that the current contract is working very well in terms of efficiency, quality of the provision and customer after care.

3 Conclusions and recommendations:

- 3.1 The Commissioning Partnership Board is asked to approve the contract extension, as this enables:
- cost avoidance in the wider health and social care system - by ensuring continuity of provision that supports people with disabilities to better manage their conditions and remain living as independently as possible in their own homes, helping to avoid the need for increased care packages or residential care
 - the current joint arrangements with Tameside to continue, which provides continued economies of scale from a contract across a larger footprint

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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