

Delegated Officer Report

Decision Maker:	Sayyed Osman, Deputy Chief Executive
Date of Decision:	10 th May 2023
Subject:	Social Prescribing Contract Extension
Report Author:	Rachel Dyson, Thriving Communities Lead
Ward (s):	All

Reason for the decision: To utilise the right to extend the term of the Social Prescribing Innovation Partnership contract for 1 year until 31st March 2024, including continuing the offer for children developed over the last year.

Summary: Oldham's Social Prescribing Innovation Partnership was initiated as part of the Thriving Communities element of Oldham Cares, funded through the GM Transformation Programme in 2018/19. The Council entered into a contract with Action Together CIO for the Innovation Partnership. The contract commenced on 1 April 2019 for an initial term of 3 years and the right to extend the initial term annually until 31 March 2025. The first extension to the term was approved for the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 with funding from the CCG.

The model is also supplemented by link workers funded through PCN Direct Enhanced Services funding.

This report is proposing that the second extension period is utilised, backdated to 1 April 2023 and expiring on 31 March 2024 at a cost of £586,639, with a further £18,975 to continue the license for the Elemental software which supports the model. This total cost of £605,614 will be allocated using funds from the Pooled Funding Reserve set aside for

integrated working between the Council and NHS partners.

The extension is proposed to ensure that there remains continuity of service provision whilst work is undertaken to develop proposals for the long-term delivery of a social prescribing approach beyond the lifetime of this contract, and as part of Oldham's wider Prevention Framework.

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

Option 1 – The proposals outlined in the report are agreed; the Social Prescribing Innovation Partnership contract is extended for 1 year until 31st March 2024. This will be at a total cost of £605,614.

Option 2 - It is agreed not to extend the Social Prescribing contract. This option would have no direct cost to Oldham system partners however, if delivery were to cease this would have the knock-on impact of the current Social Prescribing caseload and those in triage, at total of 600+ people, potentially being left without support and needing additional services from the wider system. It would have associated impacts for the Innovation Partnership providers who would either need to seek alternative funding in a short timescale or cease delivery putting existing staff at risk.

Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.

Consultation has taken place with the lead provider of the Social Prescribing Innovation Partnership and GM ICP.

Recommendation(s):

Option 1 – The proposals outlined in the report are agreed; the Social Prescribing Innovation Partnership contract is extended for 1 year until 31st March 2024. This will be at a total cost of £605,614.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

The preferred option is that the Social Prescribing Innovation Partnership contract is extended for 1 year until 31st March 2024. This will be at a total cost of £605,614 comprised of the continuation of current contractual terms at £586,639, with a further £18,975 for the license for the Elemental software which supports the model.

The £605,614 will be financed in full by the Council by a draw down from the Pooled Funding Reserve set aside to support integrated working between the Council and NHS partners.

(Anne Ryans, Director of Finance)

What are the **legal** implications?

The contract between the Council and Action Together CIO makes provision for the proposed extended term. As a result, the contract will not need to be modified to extend the term; the Council can simply inform the provider of the extension. However, it may be necessary to modify the contract to provide for the fees which will be payable for the 2023/24 financial year and to make any relevant update to the specification. If this is the case, the amendments would be in accordance with Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Legal Services should be engaged to formalise any required contract amendments.

Sarah Orrell – Corporate & Procurement Solicitor

What are the **procurement** implications?

Provision exists in the current contract; The Social Prescribing Innovation Partnership arrangement is ended on 31st March 2023. The Council undertook a procurement exercise in 2018 in lines with the PCR2015 to set up an Innovation Partnership with Action Together for the Social Prescribing in Oldham. There is a provision to extend the innovation partnership by a further three-year period on 1+1+1 year basis i.e. max up to 31 March 2025.

(Mohammad Sharif) 05/05/2023.

What are the **Human Resources** implications?

None

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

There are no equalities implications to the recommended option.

What are the **property** implications

None

Risks:

The financing of this initiative will be from an earmarked reserve. Such reserves can only be used once and at a point in a future financial year there may not be funding available to support this initiative. (Mark Stenson)

Co-operative agenda

The allocation of this funding is consistent with the Council's co-operative themes of community leadership, co-production and early help.

Decision Reference:

HSC-07-23

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

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? Yes

There are no background papers for this report

Report Author Sign-off:	
	R Dyson
Date:	26 th April 2023

Please list and attach any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description
1	Thriving Communities Evaluation & Next Steps including decision to extend the Social Prescribing Contract in 2022/23 and delegation of authority to extend 2023/24. https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4426

In consultation with Deputy Chief Executive

Signed: 
Sayyed Osman

Date: 10.05.2023