

Report to CABINET
Report requesting contract extension for Care at Home and Extra Care Flexible Purchasing System and seeking authority to enter into procurement exercises in relation to specific activity related to the Care at Home service

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care.

Officer Contact: Jayne Ratcliffe, Managing Director Health & Adult Social Care Community Services

Report Author: Neil Clough, Contracts & Quality Manager, Older Adults

Ext. 1746

22nd January 2024

Reason for Decision

The contracts awarded under the Care at Home and Extra Care Flexible Purchasing System are due to expire on 31st March 2024. This report seeks authority to extend the term of these contracts for up to a further 2 years as these are statutory services. The report also seeks authority to enter into procurement exercises via mini competitions running alongside these contracts, to appoint providers to deliver Care at Home services in 2 clusters of the borough and to deliver Hospital to Home services.

Executive Summary

Care At Home (CAH) services are provided to circa 1,085 adults in the borough and circa 15,000 hours of care are delivered each week. The annual spend on these services is in the region of £17.5m. In addition, the Extra Care Housing (ECH) support 147 people per week at a cost of £2.9m annually.

The CAH services are provided by 10 preferred cluster providers who operate across each of the 5 clusters of the borough. In addition, 3 back up providers have also been appointed to provide additional support where the 10 preferred cluster providers do not have sufficient capacity to meet need and one provider delivers the Extra Care service. CAH services support established Oldham, GM Integrated Care Partnership and national priorities of a home first approach, by supporting people to live well at home, as independently as possible, focusing on the strengths

and assets available to them to support them to remain at home and avoid hospital admissions and more intensive services such as a care home stay.

This report requests authority to extend CAH arrangements for up to 2 additional years. CAH contracts were awarded in April 2019 via a Flexible Purchasing System (ref: FPS DN37347) for a period of 5 years. The option to extend for up to 2 years, utilising 2 one year extensions, was incorporated into the procurement exercise at the time.

In addition to the proposed extension, the report proposes the reliance on providers under the same umbrella ownership is limited by initiating mini-competition procurement exercises to introduce 2 replacement providers in 2 clusters.

The report also seeks authority to enter a mini competition procurement exercise with regards to the delivery of the Home from Hospital service for the following 2 – 5 years beyond the expiry of the current service on 30th June 2024.

Recommendations

I refer you to the restricted part of the agenda in order to review the options for this report.

1. Consultation

Routine service monitoring does incorporate the views of service users through the collation of provider Key Performance Indicator returns. The CAH providers are aware that the options regarding extending contracts are under consideration.

2. Financial Implications

I refer you to the restricted part of the agenda for the details of the financial implications provided by Sophie Eade, Senior Accountant.

3. Legal Implications

I refer you to the restricted part of the agenda for the details of the legal implications provided by Mark Hope, Legal and Democratic Services.

4. Co-operative Implications

This work supports the Oldham Council co-operative charter and is an example of working in an open and transparent manner with the market. By working to ensure the services can continue to meet the needs of local residents supports the continuity of a resident focused approach.

The Policy Support Officer has provided the following comments: The proposal to extend existing contracts with Adult Health and social care providers for 2 years and entering procurement exercises with ASC providers, aligns with the Council's co-operative agenda, as well as the Council's corporate priorities as providing services for vulnerable adults is a key statutory service. Failing to renew contracts will not allow residents who are in receipt of support within care homes or within their own homes, to receive adequate care (Mahmuda Khanom, Policy Support Officer 13.11.23).

Alignment to Corporate Plan

In 2022 the Council published a new Corporate Plan, one of the priorities under this is - 'Healthy, Safe and Well Supported Residents'. This includes putting residents

first with a commitment to making every service and experience a good one for Oldham residents. The options discussed within this report all have the best interests of the current service users at the forefront to ensure the service and experience they receive remains good.

5. Human Resource Implications

None

6. Risk Assessments

I refer you to the restricted agenda for details of the information regarding risks provided by Vicki Gallacher, Head of Insurance and Information Management.

7. IT Implications

None

8. Property Implications

None

9. Procurement Implications

The report requests extension for the Care at Home and Extra Care provision that was commissioned via competitive procurement exercise in lines with the Council's CPRs under contract ref: DN373470 for a period of five years with an option to extend for up to two years on one year basis. The current contract is ending on the 31 March 2024, and should the one-year extension be granted then the contract will be extended to 31st March 2025.

The Commercial Team is working with the commissioners to develop sourcing strategy and undertake procurement as per the recommendation of this report for the provision of Care at Home service and Hospital to Home service.

(Raj Ahuja, Lead Sourcing Consultant, Social Care and Health 09.11.2023)

10. Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

There are no environment and health and safety implications for this report. The commissioned providers will manage their own risks and this will be monitored by the Contracts and Quality manager going forward.

11. Community cohesion, including crime and disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The services included within this report are inclusive of everyone within the Borough, as per the agreed criteria within the service specification.

There are no implications on any equality groups identified by the Government

There are no implications on race or community relations

Care at Home Services are available to everyone who meet the relevant criteria.

There are no implications on crime or fear of crime.

12. Oldham Equality Impact Assessment Including the impact on Children and Young People)

Yes – I refer you to the restricted agenda for information regarding Impact Assessments.

13. Key Decision

Yes – The services are delivered across all wards of the borough

14. Key Decision Reference

HSC-16-23

15. Background Papers

None

16. Appendices

I refer you to the restricted agenda for the appendices.