

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL
DECISION**

**DECISION OF: DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES
WITH ADVICE FROM: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING
DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**



DECISION NO: PC26

SUBJECT: DECISION TO VARY THE SUPPORT TO LIVE AT HOME CONTRACTS TO INCLUDE A BLOCK PAYMENT FOR HOSPITAL DISCHARGE PACKAGES

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON:

To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Local Authority.

BACKGROUND:

A decision was approved at Full Council on 24 July 2018 to recommission the services under the Community-Based Care and Support Framework Agreement due to it ending on 4 December 2018. Full Council also approved an extension of the Contract to 31 March 2019.

The recommissioning exercise included a short-term block Contract to support hospital discharge, end of life care and support to the Rapid Response service. A tender took place for a new Short-Term Block Contract in November 2018 however there were only two tenderers, neither of which met the requirements to proceed to contract award.

Subsequent to this, approval was granted - as an exception to Contract Standing Orders - to extend the existing provider's Short-Term Block Contract via a direct award to 31 September 2019. This was to consider the options available. Decision PC92

DECISION:

To vary the Support to Live at Home Contracts for Area 1 with Alliance Living Care, Areas 2, 4 and 5 with Notaro Homecare and Area 3 with Nobilis Care to add a block payment for hospital discharges.

REASONS:

To provide cost effective provision of hospital discharge care packages.

End of Life and Rapid Response

The End of Life and Rapid Response block hours are still required but the ongoing need is uncertain. This is due to the current tender for the provision of the CCG's provider services, which included Rapid Response and the ongoing review of commissioning within the BNSSG CCG. Therefore, the intension is to continue to contract these services on a short-term basis, as agreed with the CCG, as an exemption from Contract Standing Orders.

Hospital Discharges

The council currently purchases domiciliary care from three strategic providers supported by four area-based Support to Live at Home Contracts - Area 1 with Alliance Living Care, Areas 2, 4 and 5 with Notaro Homecare and Area 3 with Nobilis Care.

These contracts have performance indicator targets around facilitating hospital discharges. The providers have struggled to meet these PI's due to ongoing issues with capacity.

It is felt that by enabling the providers to recruit to a specific block arrangement, they will be able to fulfil the hospital discharge element of the previously tendered Short-Term Block Contract. The block arrangement would be contracted through a Change Control request under the Support to Live at Home Contract, with advice from the legal department.

The care packages being provided under the existing Short-Term Block Contract due to end on 30 September 2019, would be transferred to the new Spot Purchase Framework Agreement with the existing provider.

The value of the variation compared with the total value of the contract over the remaining term varies between 5% and 14%, and this is illustrated in Appendix 1.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The options available aside from varying the contracts are;

1. To end the Service. We feel that this is not a viable option with the ongoing capacity issues within the domiciliary care market and would not recommend it be considered.
2. To re-tender the Service. We do not feel that there is the market for this, based on the lack of adequate response when the tender took place in November 2018. Therefore, we would not recommend it be considered.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The below sets out the financial implications of adding a block payment to the Support to Live at Home Contracts, however, the spend is not new. The Support to Live at Home Providers should be taking hospital discharge packages of care under their existing contract, therefore the additional spend will only occur in any "down time" in the block hours. The amount of down time that may occur is difficult to identify. In addition, the cost is likely to represent better value for money in that it replaces current spend on home care pending beds, delayed discharges and spot purchases at higher rates.

Costs

Data available on new hospital discharges received to the Brokerage Team has been reviewed. Based on this data it is felt that each Support to Live at Home Contract requires the funding of Core Hours as below.

Block Hours Table

Bands	"Core Hours" (daily)	Number of Care Staff (FTE)
1.	0700-1200	1
2.	1200-1400	1
3.	1730-2200	1

This equates to 80.5 block hours per week per Support to Live at Home Contract and 348.83 per month.

Each Support to Live at Home Contract has varying remaining terms.

Remaining Term of Contract	Months
Alliance Living Care Area 1	48
Notaro Area 2	39
Notaro Area 4&5	58
Nobilis Area 3	51

	Hourly Rates 2019/20	Cost per month	Cost in a full year	Cost per remaining contract Term
Alliance Living Care Area 1	£17.21	£6,003.36	£72,041.06	£288,161.49
Notaro Area 2	£18.11	£6,317.31	£75,807.72	£246,375.14
Notaro Area 4&5	£ 20.32	£7,088.23	£85,058.76	£411,117.08
Nobilis Area 3	£ 21.90	£7,639.38	£91,672.56	£389,608.23

Funding

The funding will come from existing adult social care budgets and this decision is not expected to materially impact on projected future spend.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

Support to Live at Home Contract Clause 11 Change Control.
Contract Standing Orders Clause 27.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

Initial discussions have been had with the existing provider of the Short-Term Block Contract and the Support to Live at Home providers. All agree in principle to implement the changes.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There is a risk of:

1. Block down-time where the council is funding care that is not being delivered.

There will always be a certain element of down-time that is spent on care staff travelling. This has been minimised by varying the Support to Live at Home contracts which are already commissioned in smaller geographical areas to minimise travel time for care staff. Down-time will be mitigated by the Change Control Notice issued to the providers specifying that down time must be kept to a minimum by care staff providing additional support to clients receiving reablement. It will be managed through existing contract management mechanisms.

2. The block hours being blocked due to the Support to Live at Home providers being unable to transfer clients to their ongoing service.

This will be mitigated by the provider being supported to achieve better reablement outcomes to cease or decrease the sizes of packages. It will be managed through existing contract management mechanisms.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

An EIA was undertaken as part of the Short-Term Block Contract tender. The impact rating was low.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None.

APPENDICES

1. Value of the additional block contract compared with the value of the original contract over the remaining term.

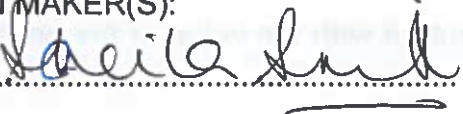
BACKGROUND PAPERS

Full Council Report 18 24/07/18 minute number COU41

Decision paper PC92

SIGNATORIES:

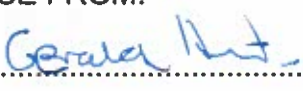
DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: 

Title: Director of People and Communities

Date: 5.9.19

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed: 

Title: Head of Commissioning – People and Communities

Date: 5.9.19

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable:

This decision varies slightly from the original un-signed decision notice as it has been transferred to the new corporate template. The additional section is Climate Change and Environmental Implications on page 3.

Value of the additional block contract compared with the value of the original contract over the remaining term

Total percentage of block to total contract spend. This has been based on a snap shot of the total cost of care being provided per week on 12 July 2019.

ALC	
Care cost per week	£ 28,029.33
Care cost per month	£ 121,460.43
Care cost of remaining Term	£ 5,830,100.64
Block cost	£ 288,161.49
Percentage of block to Contract cost	5%

Notaro Area 2	
Care cost per week	£ 15,975.70
Care cost per month	£ 69,228.03
Care cost of remaining Term	£ 2,699,893.30
Block cost	£ 246,375.15
Percentage of block to Contract cost	9%

Notaro Area 4 and 5	
Care cost per week	£ 11,469.16
Care cost per month	£ 49,699.69
Care cost of remaining Term	£ 2,882,582.21
Block cost	£ 411,117.08
Percentage of block to Contract cost	14%

Nobilis Area 3	
Care cost per week	£ 28,092.42
Care cost per month	£ 121,733.82
Care cost of remaining Term	£ 6,208,424.82
Block cost	£ 389,608.22
Percentage of block to Contract cost	6%