

North Somerset Council Decision

Decision of: Executive Member for Adult Social Care
With Advice From: The Director of Adult Social Services, Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships & Housing Solutions and S151 Officer
Directorate: Adult Social Services



Decision No: ASC01 (2022/23 Scheme)

Subject: Funding for Digitising Social Care

Key Decision: YES

Reason:

Financial implications are more than £500,000

Background:

In February 2022, the council was successful in securing funding on the behalf of BNSSG Healthier Together from NHSx to implement a programme of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) projects amongst care providers. The funding was awarded competitively as part of the NHS Unified Digital Grant as one of 11 NHS digital accelerator systems, the only successful system led by a local authority. The application of the equipment is to deliver innovation in our Discharge to Assess / reablement pathways. Successful accelerator sites have been asked to deliver this at pace as part of the ongoing COVID emergency / elective backlog recovery.

Our bid was based on delivering these specific products to achieve specific outcomes and the central monitoring model for Acoustic monitoring will be unique to the UK. We are therefore assisting the NHS in helping them to learn from our implementation and to assist them develop the framework for wide scale implementation across the country over the next few years. The funding is to test and learn at scale and therefore the bulk of the funding for the equipment is from NHSx and no direct funding from NSC will support the Access Your Care operated central monitoring service, which will be funded once fully implemented from subscription.

The value of the one-year service provision and the purchase of the acoustic monitoring equipment to two different providers are values which place them under the PCR 2015 Light Touch provision which allows us to consider the councils CSOs as the procurement guide. Given all of the above and the need to act with some speed, it is proposed that both the purchase of the equipment and the service proposed are decisions awarded with the below CSO exception in mind.

6.3.2 reasons of extreme urgency mean that normal time limits cannot be met, including as a result of unforeseen emergency or disruption to Council services. This may include for example, storm damage to public buildings. Not having sufficient time to tender may not in itself constitute urgency.

The NHS grant of £679,500 will be supplemented by funding set aside by the Council in an earmarked reserve to support post-Covid care provider recovery.

The programme involves the delivery of TEC in four areas:

1. Digitisation of Social Care Records;
2. Acoustic monitoring in care homes across BNSSG;
3. The pilot of use of Advanced Risk Modelling for Early Detection (ARMED) Technicare Solutions Limited, company number 13266108;
4. The pilot of use of WHZAN Blue Box (Telehealth) WHZAN Limited, company number 11713530.

The deployment of 600 more units of acoustic monitoring across BNSSG with a central monitoring service funded by subscription by the Care Providers is a unique model for the UK, currently there are three acoustic monitoring suppliers which will all be utilised by the five accelerator systems utilising acoustic monitoring. Given acoustic monitoring is viewed as a key development area by NHSX for care homes, the five accelerator sites will contribute to the development of an NHS framework for acoustic monitoring to be developed for 2023. The central monitoring service will build on overnight care response service operated by Access Your Care one of our strategic domiciliary care providers and submission partner of our successful bid.

Decision:

In accordance with the financial implications section below:

1. To approve an addition to the capital programme of £670,250 funded by £457,000 from a capital grant from the NHS and £213,250 from a revenue contribution from the Care Provider Covid Recovery Fund Earmarked Revenue Reserve (ZXB318).
2. To increase the adult social care revenue budget by £247,100, with £222,500 funded from a revenue grant from the NHS and £24,600 from the Care Provider Covid Recovery Fund Earmarked Revenue Reserve (ZXB318).
3. To note that, should the Care Provider Covid Recovery Fund be insufficient to cover the matched funding costs, further funding is available in the form of the £750k TEC fund that originates from the Council's Disabled Facilities Grant.
4. In line with NHS x recommendations and fully funded by the NHS x grant we will purchase and lease to selected care homes across BNSSG 600 units of acoustic monitoring from Adaptive IT at an approximate cost of £489,000.
5. In addition, we will commission Access Your Care Limited, company number 07597266 as our bid partner, to develop a central monitoring service for acoustic monitoring funded initially by NHSx funding but subsequently by subscription charges by local care home providers. This service is intended to be self sufficient within twelve months as outlined in the bid detailed in Appendix One.

Reasons:

This decision is required in accordance with Financial Regulations, to ensure that the relevant budgets are increased in accordance with the anticipated spend and funding arrangements

Options Considered:

No significant alternative options

Financial Implications:

The programme of TEC improvements consists of part capital and part revenue costs, funded predominantly by a grant from the NHS, but supplemented by funding from the Innovation Grant element of the Care Provider Covid Recovery Fund, which forms part of the council's earmarked revenue reserves.

The estimated costs and proposed funding arrangements are summarised in the table below and a detailed breakdown is shown in Appendix 1:

Project	TOTAL Programme Costs			Funded by NHSX Digitising Social Care Grant			Funded by NSC Earmarked Reserves		
	Capital	Revenue	TOTAL	Capital	Revenue	TOTAL	NSC Match	NSC Match	TOTAL NSC
Digital Social Care Records	£100,500	£0	£100,500	£70,500	£0	£70,500	£30,000	£0	£30,000
Acoustic Monitoring	£437,000	£166,000	£603,000	£270,000	£166,000	£436,000	£167,000	£0	£167,000
ARMED (Advanced Risk Modelling for Early Detection)	£72,250	£40,950	£113,200	£61,500	£27,300	£88,800	£10,750	£13,650	£24,400
WHZAN Blue Box (Telehealth)	£60,500	£40,150	£100,650	£55,000	£29,200	£84,200	£5,500	£10,950	£16,450
TOTAL	£670,250	£247,100	£917,350	£457,000	£222,500	£679,500	£213,250	£24,600	£237,850

Legal Powers and Implications:

Decision being made in accordance with Financial Regulations

Climate Change and Environmental Implications:

Investment in TEC will contribute to carbon reduction, potentially reducing staffing commitments and in a community, setting reducing physical visits from carers.

Consultation:

The proposals represent a unique opportunity to extend TEC coverage in North Somerset. The bid was multi agency and will see further engagement with care providers to support the initiative. Further consideration of the project is subject to engagement with Primary Care, and Sirona the community health provider

Risk Management:

There is a risk that, given inflationary pressures, the funding may not be able to cover the exact devices and services originally envisaged. However, we are able to vary to quantities to ensure that the funding envelope is not exceeded. In addition, further funding is available from in the form of the £750k TEC fund that originates from the council's Disabled Facilities Grant if required.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes / No
The decision relates to budget setting as opposed to service delivery.

Corporate Implications:

TEC is viewed as key priority for Healthier Together and will form a key development area for the development of local Health and Social Care integration.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Detailed breakdown of estimated costs and proposed funding arrangements

Background Papers:

NHSX funding bid
NHSX funding agreement

Signatories:

Decision Maker(s):



Signed:

Title: Executive Member for Adult Social Care

Date: 16.06.22

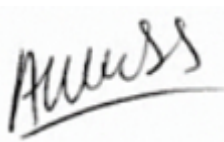
With Advice From:



Signed:

Title: Director of Adult Social Services

Date: 16.06.22

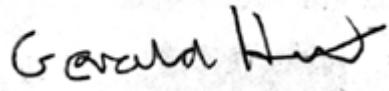


Signed:

Title: S151 Officer

Date: 16.06.22

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and 'H'.

Title: Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships and Housing Solutions

Date: 16.06.22

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

Ref	Project	Item	Capital	Revenue	TOTAL	Funding Source
1.1	DSCR	Project Mangement	22,500		22,500	NHSX Capital
1.2	DSCR	Provider Costs (infrastrucutre and configuration)	48,000		48,000	NHSX Capital
1.3	DSCR	Small Care Home development of DSCR	30,000		30,000	Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Capital
2.1	Acoustic Monitoring	Project Management	45,000		45,000	NHSX Capital
2.2	Acoustic Monitoring	Project Support		16,000	16,000	NHSX Revenue
2.3	Acoustic Monitoring	NSC Care Home Units	75,000		75,000	NHSX Capital
2.4	Acoustic Monitoring	BCC Care Home Units	75,000		75,000	NHSX Capital
2.5	Acoustic Monitoring	SGC Care Home Units	75,000		75,000	NHSX Capital
2.6	Acoustic Monitoring	NSC Care Home Units (additional)	167,000		167,000	Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Capital
2.7	Acoustic Monitoring	Contribution to first year monitoring costs		150,000	150,000	NHSX Revenue
3.1	ARMED	Devices	6,250		6,250	NHSX Capital
3.2	ARMED	Monitors	10,500		10,500	NHSX Capital
3.3	ARMED	Implementation	4,750		4,750	NHSX Capital
3.4	ARMED	Data Hosting		27,300	27,300	NHSX Revenue
3.5	ARMED	Project Manager	40,000		40,000	NHSX Capital
3.6	ARMED	Additional devices (match funding)	3,125		3,125	Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Capital
3.7	ARMED	Additional monitors (match funding)	5,250		5,250	Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Capital
3.8	ARMED	Additional Implementation (match funding)	2,375		2,375	Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Capital
3.9	ARMED	Additional Data Hosting (match funding)		13,650	13,650	Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Revenue
4.1	WHZAN	Boxes	55,000		55,000	NHSX Capital
4.2	WHZAN	Subscription		29,200	29,200	NHSX Revenue
4.3	WHZAN	NSC top up subscription costs		7,300	7,300	Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Revenue
4.4	WHZAN	Additional units (boxes)	5,500		5,500	Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Capital
4.5	WHZAN	Additional units (subscription)		3,650	3,650	Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Revenue
			670,250	247,100	917,350	
	<u>By Funding Source</u>	NHSX Capital	457,000	0	457,000	
		NHSX Revenue	0	222,500	222,500	
		Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Capital	213,250	0	213,250	
		Covid Recovery Fund (Innovation Grant) Revenue	0	24,600	24,600	
			670,250	247,100	917,350	
	<u>By Project</u>	DSCR	100,500	0	100,500	
		Acoustic Monitoring	437,000	166,000	603,000	
		ARMED	72,250	40,950	113,200	
		WHZAN	60,500	40,150	100,650	
			670,250	247,100	917,350	