

North Somerset Council Decision

Decision Of: Director of Adult Social Services
With Advice From: Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships & Housing Solutions, Head of Procurement, Section 151 Officer
Directorate: Adult Social Services



Decision No: ASC23 (2022/23 Scheme)

Subject: Contract Extension of the Specialised Care and Support and Care and Support Spot Purchase Framework Agreements

Key Decision: Yes

Reason:

The value of the decision is more than £500,000.

Background:

The current Specialised Care and Support Framework Agreement, which includes the Framework for Supported Living Lot 1 and the Framework for Individualised Care and Support Lot 2, commenced on 1 April 2019 for a period of 4 years. In September 2021 a further Lot 3 was added to include Adult Building Based Day Services. This is an Open Framework, which providers can join at any point throughout the Contract Term. The Supported Living Framework currently has 48 providers, the Individualised Framework has 53 providers and the Building Based Day Services has 7 providers. The contracts support client groups including learning disability, mental health, autism, acquired brain injury, physical and sensory impairment, and transitions.

The current Care and Support Spot Purchase Framework Agreement commenced on 1 April 2019 for a period of 4 years. This Framework Agreement supports adults requiring domiciliary care. In June 2022 a further Lot 2 was added to include Day Opportunities for Older People and Dementia Services. This is an Open Framework, which providers can join at any point throughout the Contract Term. The Care and Support Framework Agreement currently has 20 domiciliary care providers and 1 day opportunities provider.

There are a few packages of support waiting to be picked up by providers under the Supported Living and Individualised contracts and high levels of people waiting for domiciliary care. Evidence suggests that this unmet need is due to staff recruitment and retention across the sector rather than there being a lack of providers within the market.

The Council continues to explore various initiatives to support the sector with this problem, which is also a national position.

The Framework Agreements are in place to enable the Council to commission care and support into individual's homes and to support individuals to live an independent life, which is meaningful and supports their health and wellbeing. The Care and Support Framework Agreement works alongside the Council's 4 strategic domiciliary care contracts in managing the unmet need and is necessary to support the overall market position.

Decision:

To approve the extension of the above contracts for a further 2 years, from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2025.

Reasons:

The current contracts have an extension clause built in, which was also part of the original contract award decision.

Contract Standing Orders Clause 26:

26 Contract Extension

26.1 Contracts may be extended subject to authorisation by the relevant decision-maker.

Options Considered:

The alternative option would be to recommission before the end of the Full Term. However, this would only result in the same providers rebidding, which would not create extra capacity within the market. The service specification is in line with current legislation and best practice, there are other workstreams being considered jointly within the BNSSG that are supporting Positive Behaviour Support and Individual Service Funds.

Financial Implications:

There are no specific financial impacts of this decision because the existing pricing mechanism and annual uplifts will continue.

Costs:

The current financial outputs for each contract for the previous financial year, April 2021 to March 2022 are as follows.

Supported Living Framework Agreement	£12,662,437 per year
Individualised Framework Agreement	£8,816,343 per year
Building Based Day Services	£736,148 per year
Care and Support Framework Agreement	£3,495,604 per year
Older Persons and Dementia Services Day Opportunities	N/A

Funding:

Funding is met from the Adult Social Care Budgets and where appropriate part re-charged to the BNSSG. All other Terms and Conditions will remain unchanged for the extended period.

Legal Powers and Implications:

North Somerset Council has a statutory responsibility in line with the Care Act 2014, which sets out the vision and general responsibilities for social care, reinforcing the transformation necessary to enable greater choice, control, and Personalisation. It requires local authorities to help develop a market that delivers a wide range of sustainable high-quality care and support services.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications:

There are no changes to the current arrangements. We continue to work with providers to support climate change in areas, such as environment, travel, and technology solutions, including the ways that people receive their support and care.

Consultation:

Decision made in consultation with:

- Gerald Hunt, Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships & Housing Solutions
- Katherine Sokol, Finance Business Partner

Risk Management:

Provider failure is mitigated by robust contract monitoring and compliance of the contract. Performance indicators are set for the contracts with the monitoring of these jointly undertaken by the Contracts and Commissioning Team and Quality Monitoring Team. Intelligence data is also gathered in partnership with other stakeholders including CQC, Adult Social care and Safeguarding Adults Teams.

All payments relating to the packages of support and care are paid in arrears, which reduces the risk of financial loss to the Council.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes, this was completed prior to the current contract award and remains unchanged.

Corporate Implications:

None identified.

Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

Decision PC30 (2018/19 Scheme)

Report to the Executive Meeting Date 5 February 2019

Current contracts and specifications are available on request and are available on the procurement portal

Signatories:

Decision Maker(s):

Signed:

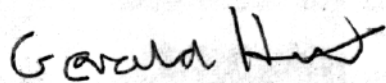


Title: Director of Adult Social Services

Date: 31 October 2022

With Advice From:

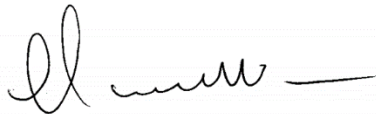
Signed:



Title: Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships and Housing Solutions

Date: 31 October 2022

Signed:



Title: Head of Procurement

Date: 31 October 2022

Signed:



Title: Section 151 Officer

Date: 31 October 2022

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

Addition of signature of Head of Procurement.