

North Somerset Council Decision

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



Decision No: ASC13 (2023/24 Scheme)

Subject: Direct Award of a Reablement Contract to Access Your Care Limited

Key Decision: Yes

Reason:

This decision is a key decision as the costs associated with the decision are more than £500,000. It is not 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: **Reablement**

On 20 December 2021 a Director Decision ASC034 was agreed to direct award a contract to Access Your Care Limited until 4 September 2023, that enabled the Council to work with a single partner to develop an effective and best value Reablement Service.

On 27 June 2022 a Director Decision ASC14 was agreed to fund Access Your Care's recruitment of a further 6 Reablement worker posts for 12 months.

On 8 February 2023 the Executive agreed the proposal presented to spend a Hospital Discharge Grant awarded to the Council by the Department of Health and Social Care as part of finding solutions to alleviating winter pressures on the hospitals. Five one year Reablement posts to support Reablement in Care Homes was agreed under the proposal.

Decision:

To direct award a Reablement contract to Access Your Care Limited until 4 September 2024, that enables the Council to continue to work with a single partner to develop an effective and best value Reablement Service, as an exception to Contract Standing Orders.

Reasons:

From November 2021 to January 2022, the Council established the new Reablement Service as part of the Discharge to Assess business care. The model for the service was an in house Therapy and Technology Enabled Care led service working jointly with a domiciliary care provider Access Your Care.

Our vision was to strengthen the relationship with health, social care and provider staff and develop a wraparound preventative Service offer, with a single dedicated domiciliary care provider who;

- Builds strong and effective relationships with the Discharge to Assess pathway staff.
- Understands Reablement and builds a skilled workforce, working closely with Council occupational therapy staff.
- Has a strengths-based approach to providing care and support.
- Supports the Technology Enabled Care (TEC) first approach by undertaking a TEC assessment for every service user.
- Actively case manages and reviews outcomes on a daily and weekly basis.
- Can provide alternatives to traditional care and support to maintain service user's independence in a more creative and innovative way.
- Engages with the Council's Housing Related Support and voluntary sector commissioned services to consider the ongoing and longer term social and mental wellbeing of the service user and their carer/s.

Processes have been developed over the course of the last 15 months and are still evolving to ensure the Reablement Service is being responsive to supporting the wider health and social care system. Performance data has also evolved to ensure reporting on the main outcomes of the service can be achieved.

Referrals

Most referrals came from Discharge to Assess Pathway 1 colleagues, although some referrals had received a Care Act assessment from a social worker in the first few months. Currently, Discharge to Assess is the main focus of Reablement and the Reablement Service is currently working with Sirona to try and transfer service users from DTA in a more timely way.

Outcomes

The Reablement Service is seeing good outcomes for people. Six case studies have been provided by Access Your Care covering a range of service users with different outcomes from Reablement. Data evidences that 68% of service users who completed Reablement (removing ceased other, hospital and still in Reablement) left with no ongoing care needs and 23% had their care package decreased.

Signposting and Wellbeing

The service has been successful in signposting to other services. We would expect to see high levels of referrals for equipment and TEC. Work is being done to provide Access Your Care with direct access to smaller equipment that they can use to support outcomes without having to refer into the Reablement therapy team. The overwhelming majority of

the service users who have completed their reablement journey confirmed that their wellbeing has improved as a result of the Reablement Service.

The service is making good headway into achieving the overall objectives. The council has weekly meetings with the Service Managers to discuss any issues and progress developments in the service.

We have yet to expand the Reablement Service to take on referrals from the community. Access Your Care are currently recruiting to post to support this with funding committed from the Adult Social Care budget. We need time to embed the roll out of reablement prior to being in a position to be able to tender the service.

Options Considered:

The only other option at this stage is to tender for the reablement contract. We do not feel that this would provide best value at this stage in the development of the service as we are not in a position to be able to make a clear commitment. Writing a service specification and a clear tender for a service that has a number of short-term funded posts and is still developing could put the council at financial risk.

Financial Implications:

Contract element	Funding	2023/24 cost	Funding	2023/24 cost	Total
Reablement Service	ICB	£942,624	Adult Social Care	£229,110	£1,171,734

Legal Powers and Implications:

The Council is responding to national changes in pathways to support hospital discharge, and these services are urgently needed to be expanded to prevent the multiple challenges facing health and social care, to strengthen capacity and prevent a silting of community capacity. Additional capacity for Reablement will be provided by NHS funds to strengthen these changes. Therefore, these changes will be implemented as a direct award to Access Your Care. This decision is covered by the following exceptions to Contract Standing Orders:

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 need for the council to respond to the pressures within the health and social care system is urgent. We feel it is not in the council's best interest to tender for a Reablement service quickly and be in a position where the level of service either puts the council in a detrimental financial position or does not offer enough service to support the system.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications:

We will work with Access Your Care ensure that care is planned in the most geographically efficient way possible, although travel across the whole of North Somerset will be required.

A Social Value schedule will form part of the contract the reflects the Councils Social Value policy.

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/business/tenders-procurement/procurement-strategy/our-social-value-policy>

Consultation:

This decision is a key element of BNSSG ICB system planning assurances and will therefore be supported financially. Access Your Care will work closely with Sirona our community health provider and build on existing relationships.

Risk Management:

No risks identified on the risk register scored High due to mitigating factors.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes – Summary. Positive impact only identified.

Corporate Implications:

None

Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

ASC034



ASC034 - Reablement
Contract Direct Award

ASC14



20220704 ASC14 -
Funding 6 x reableme

Signatories:

Decision Maker(s):

Signed:



Title: Director of Adult Social Services

Date: 29 June 2023

With Advice From:

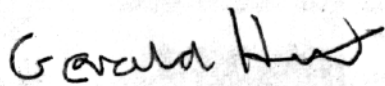
Signed:



Title: Section 151 Officer

Date: 29 June 2023

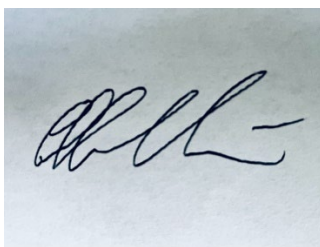
Signed:



Title: Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships and Housing Solutions

Date: 19 July 2023

Signed:



Title: Head of Strategic Commissioning

Date: 29 June 2023

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable: None.