Cabinet Report – 17 June 2020

Ordering and Sourcing for Local Distribution: Emergency Personal Protective Clothing

Portfolio: Councillor Rose Martin

Councillor Towe
Councillor Craddock

Related portfolios: All

Service: Adult Social Care

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: No

1. Aim

- 1.1. The aim is to achieve Cabinet approval for Adult Social Care (ASC) to continue to order and source emergency Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the ongoing COVID-19 pressures. Therefore approval is being sought for cabinet to approve the continuation of spend on a month by month basis up to the end of the financial year, or until there are no further pressures relating to COVID and the sourcing of Urgent PPE.
- 1.2. To enable Officers to extend the ordering and supply of PPE to a much wider cohort of people as the Borough take steps to support the workforce, marketplace and schools to return to a phased return to delivery as we move through the post-COVID arrangements.
- 1.3. To ensure that the lessons learned over the past few months due to COVID, can also start to introduce the concept of developing a much wider Procurement offer longer term as part of Walsall Councils Offer to its internal and external partners, when sourcing a wide range of supplies.

2. Summary

2.1. ASC continue to work alongside a whole range of colleagues internally and externally, in an attempt to help to minimise the spread of COVID-19. This request relates specifically to the purchasing of PPE to support the local Care Providers, citizens and care givers at home. It also recognises that there continues to be internal workforce that have required PPE throughout the pandemic as they have continued to remain in work on a front facing customer basis and there is a requirement to remain safe whilst in the line of duty. Adult Social Care delivery has been the largest cohort of the internal and external marketplace that has relied on

the continued support of the supply of PPE. It has also become increasingly needed for the people who offer day to day personal care to people at home, whilst most of the business as usual offers of support via the Council and its key partners has had to be suspended.

- 2.2. Ordinarily, the local independent sector providers that deliver care and support across a whole range of service model across Walsall, take responsibility fully, for their ordering, supplies and payment of PPE.
- 2.3. As a direct result of the Coronavirus Pandemic, although the local supply chains are beginning to recover slightly, there is still a great dependency on the support of local authorities to support them to source PPE.
- 2.4. National Health England (NHE) and Public Health England (PHE) have continued to issue guidance which is updated on a regular basis in relation to both the safe use of PPE and the specifications of items sourced. This alongside the public messages from National Government, continues to focus heavily on the importnance of PPE, whilst tackling the health and wellbeing of people in hospitals and homes, but more recently, whilst attempting to reintroduce people back to work, school and out of lockdown.
- 2.5. The National deliveries of PPE, have steadily improved, however local authorities have found it necessary, inclusive of Walsall, to remove some stock items as they arrive to the local bases for distribution as they are out of date, or not fit for purpose, hence Local Authorities having to purchase more supplies in order to retain safe and regular supplies for local people across the sectors.
- 2.6. Procurement in Walsall continues to work with regional colleagues in order to support Adult Social Care (ASC) and Children Directorate (CD) to source cost effective products for the purpose of safe supply of PPE.
- 2.7. The Public health Department (PH) Department within Adult Social Care are also offering advice and guidance to the care marketplace and supporting homes in relation to Infection control and the safe use of the PPE that is supplied by the council during this pandemic.
- 2.8. Although it is recognised that the Local Authority does not have statutory duties to supply PPE, not to do so at this critical time would adversely impact on its assets and longer term investments across the Borough. There is a recognition that many people have lost their lives across Walsall during the pandemic and the lack of suitably manufactured and sourced PPE would add to that list of fatalities, due to the absolute need for protective clothing to be worn as part of recent past and possibly future guidance as we ease out of the crisis over a long period of time to come.
- 2.9. There are currently 164 different Care Providers that the local Hub at Goscote is supporting.58 of those are Residential/Nursing homes in Walsall. 107 are Providers delivering a selection of extra care, supported living and domiciliary care provision. In addition to this the hub supports volunteers requiring PPE, internal workforce delivering a range of personal care and front facing work with vulnerable people, direct payment recipients and carers who may require PPE to support people at home. It is assumed that providers are accessing the council supply of

PPE on an emergency stock basis only, after their own supply chains have been exhausted.

- 2.10. As we start to move towards easing businesses and schools back into their premises and Business as usual tasks, there is also a call on the council to be available to support schools, albeit in an absolute emergency, with PPE. New guidance received from the Department of Education (DfE) is issued in order to help Local Authorities introduce schools back as part of resetting its priorities. Although Local Authorities will not be expected to supply PPE there will be some occasions, due to absolute emergency, whereby the urgent supply issued via Goscote will be called upon to support the schools in crisis, if demands around PPE grow and outweigh the supply.
- 2.11. Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), continue to work alongside ASC, to collectively deliver PPE to all of the GP practices who are not receiving their supplies via the NHS supply chain.
- 2.12. The CCG support the PPE supply for all UTC and the Hot sites for the Hospitals. Both will share stock where there are short supplies of a particular sort of stock. This continues to work well.
- 2.13. The agreement for the Local Authority to recharge the CCG up to the end of May is being negotiated in terms of the costs of PPE. Some of this may therefore be offset against the urgent approval amounts of £660,000 for one month up to end of May that was agreed by the Leader of the Council in April. Outcomes of those amounts are not likely to be confirmed or realised until sometime in June.

3. Recommendations

This report seeks Cabinet approval:

3.1. For the continuous ordering of urgent local supplies of PPE via the Council's Adult Social Care Provider Hub, continuing to work with the Corporate Procurement team within Walsall Council and its regional partners, to secure appropriate items for best value and to also support the introduction of schools back to their Business as usual status as well as to introduce the wider internal workforce of the Council as part of the Reset Priorities. The timescales for this are from the 17th June until the end of December,2020-or before should the urgent demands for PPE subside as the Coronavirus risks reduce.

4. Report detail - Know

4.1. A National shortage of essential PPE items has created increased pressure locally to support the care market and the essential keyworker roles across ASC and CD directorates. Although this is now easing slightly as the Local Resilience Forums are arranging regular deliveries of free PPE to Local Authorities, there are still pressures due to the uncertainty of the level of demands from the coronavirus now and moving forward. Local supply chains across the Borough are becoming strained due to the increased pressure as they also work to source supplies for a growing group of businesses as they are preparing to return or reset their businesses post-COVID.

- 4.2. Locally there continues to be a sourcing and distribution site at Goscote in-house provider resource. This will continue to support the residential and nursing homes, domiciliary care marketplace and internal workforce across Children and adults Directorate. It will also now support the reintroduction of schools as part of National Guidance. Currently supporting 120 childminders with emergency supplies of PPE and all of the schools,(76 of which are maintained schools) all others are academies, nurseries. or other early years settings. Lessons learned throughout COVID-19 has also created opportunities to consider longer term options in relation to a wider procurement offer across Walsall, for its internal and external customers. Something which will be scoped for further consideration and as part of future discussions.
- 4.3. Goscote manages local requests and deliveries of PPE stock to all providers, volunteers; direct payment recipients and internal keyworkers for social care, struggling to source PPE through their normal business as usual routes. There is also occasion where funeral directors, pharmacists and more recently, preparation for the re opening of schools and the wider internal workforce of Walsall Council as part of the reset plans and staff returning to safe environments within Walsall councils offices and operational buildings.
- 4.4. National guidance in response to the Covid-19 outbreak released on 19 March 2020, and subsequent updates has made it difficult to predict demands as well as to ensure all providers are aware of when and how to source and use their PPE. Some of this is being addressed and mitigated where possible by introducing an Enhanced Care Support Team, made up of lead nurses from Walsall Health Trust (WHT), internal Walsall employed social care providers and Public Health staff, going into all homes across the Borough to offer support to staff around safe use of PPE and infection control. The initial Urgent Decision request approved by the Leader in April allowed officers to source urgent PPE. The amount that was approved also allowed Officers to forward plan a little more and secure orders past the one month milestone.
- 4.5. The need to source PPE on behalf of the marketplace across Walsall and its internal workforce relating to social care, is as a direct result of the Pandemic and the increased demands across the national, regional and local landscape for safe stocks of PPE.
- 4.6. We know that as more guidance is produced, and more public messages from the Prime Minister create opportunities for more people to start to consider easing the Lockdown arrangements, and as long as those business areas then attempt to follow guidance and use PPE to introduce the Business as usual principles, the more pressure potentially that will place on the Council and its partners to continue to supply PPE locally in order to maintain safety and welfare of local people.
- 4.7. There has been a surge in demand as more people become unwell or show signs of COVID-19. This alongside further guidance being issued as we learn more about the virus, means that anyone now who cannot maintain a two metre distance from people, should always wear a face covering/non surgical mask in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained. There is also evidence to confirm that not everyone shows symptoms of the virus, but when pro-actively tested, come back as being positive, again, as we learn more this determines the increased and more regular use of PPE, in care settings and when delivering personal care anywhere to anyone showing signs of COVID.

- 4.8. Over the next few months, there is a possibility of more people becoming unwell or requiring the use of PPE to enable their carers to carry on supporting them safely and without risk of spreading the virus further. As more people try to reintroduce themselves to life prior to COVID, there comes a risk of more infection.
- 4.9. Walsall Council have received numerous deliveries of PPE since the end of March as part of the National Supplies Disruption, via the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) however this is still not sufficient to support the whole of Walsall's needs, nor at times are we able to use the kind donations as they have not got a certification for PPE, meaning it is deemed not fit for purpose by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE).
- 4.10. Social Care providers require ample supplies of PPE in order to continue to support their vulnerable people and the staff who are continuing to provide care and support to very frail elderly and unwell people. Providers are expected to procure PPE through their own supply chain in the first instance. Walsall Council have been able to support this need because we have purchased more stock in the absence of local suppliers. We also know this is necessary as we are being asked to support the re-introduction and re-opening of schools in the next few months. This request is also supported by local Public Health colleagues who are working to develop local guidance on the appropriate use, donning, taking off and safe disposal of PPE, Infection control services also train local providers on the safe use of PPE and audit PPE on their inspection visits.
- 4.11. Funeral directors, pharmacists and transport providers for schools are also additional pressures for the Council's PPE supply service at Goscote, however with the ongoing approval to order stock, there is also a very good indication that the stock purchased alongside the stock supplied free of charge via the LRF, will sustain a health supply across Walsall Borough up to and including August. As there is yet no indication as to how long the issues relating to COVID will continue, this adds to the pressure and uncertainty the officers face when trying to order and maintain the safe and steady stock pile and its distribution fairly across the Borough.

Council Corporate Plan priorities

- 4.12. This proposal supports the Council's urgent and emergency response to the COVID 19 pandemic and the role the Council plays in the wider system of health and care for the people of Walsall. Not to continue to provide this urgent support would not be in the longer term interests of the Council nor the citizens and Economy of Walsall.
- 4.13. This proposal links to the Council's corporate priority 'Communities are prospering and resilient. The most vulnerable people are protected from avoidable harm, including treating and caring for people in a safe environment through working within the local community. Enhancing quality of life for people with care and support needs and those with long-term conditions; out of hospital, community based provision provides a safe and more appropriate environment for individuals recovering from ill health and/or injury or requiring long-term care.
- 4.14. Emergency planning and resilience during the pandemic has played a supportive role in assisting with the supplies from Government and the oversight for longer term planning and business continuity. Delivering a steady flow of supplies to the people

- who require it also means that Walsall are working in a similar collaborative way as its regional partners.
- 4.15. Best set of outcomes at the best price has been the aim of procurement and Council officers responsible for the ordering and sourcing of PPE. That has to date seen Walsall through an unprecedented time as a result of COVID-19 and the pandemic.

Risk management

- 4.16. Until such times there are clear signs of the pandemic easing and providers being able to source their own regular supplies of affordable stock, there appears little alternative but for the Council to continue to support the initiative in the way it has to date.
- 4.17. The monitoring of the expenditure will continue to be overseen by distributors; procurement and finance colleagues.
- 4.18. The agenda is also discussed daily as part of the COVID-19 chain of command groups (bronze, silver and gold), which has representatives of all internal and external stakeholders responsible for delivering safe outcomes as a result of COVID-19.

Financial implications

- 4.19. The orders will continue to be monitored by finance and robust financial stewardship will be maintained.
- 4.20. Walsall Council will order items for purpose of safe supplies of PPE in order for there to be safe supplies in place and that regular distributions are maintained across the widening landscape of need, particularly as part of trying to reset the business priorities across the Borough as we ease out of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.21. Originally, the Leader of the Council agreed an urgent decision to approve 3 months expenditure of no more than £0.660m per month up until 31st May 2020 for a total of £1.980m. Some of that expenditure is to be recharged to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), although the amounts of that may not be realised until sometime in June.
- 4.22. The Local Authority has currently committed £1.023m of expenditure for PPE. It is anticipated that the stock already purchased will cover demand for the 5 month period April to August 2020. This equates to circa £0.205m per month.
- 4.23. It is expected that demand for PPE will be continue beyond the current stock levels. Therefore, based on current demand and the assumption that PPE will still be required until December 2020, there will be estimated additional costs of circa £1.020m. (Based on an average £0.255m per month for the 4 month period September to December 2020). The total estimated cost will be £2.043m. The average spend is anticipated to be higher than the initial period due to the expected increase from areas such as schools, and ensuring that the Council has adequate equipment for when services 'reset' on site.
- 4.24. The positive outcomes in relation to the amount that was approved is that there has been an ability to secure orders that should support the Borough until July/August,

with only a request now for the approval from Cabinet to continue to order sufficient stock to assist the Council with its commitments to maintain safe supplies of PPE, to see them safely through the end of the pandemic, or until there is sufficient confidence that the local supply chains across key business areas has recovered sufficiently for all providers to source their own, regular supplies of this urgent and business as usual equipment.

Legal implications

4.25. There are no legal implications at this time, however there is full recognition that the reason that this is a key decision is that the request will incur expenditure greater than £250,000.

Procurement Implications/Social Value

4.26. The anticipated cumulative value of the contracts referred to within this report is likely to exceed the current EU Threshold for supplies (3189,350) Continued support will therefore be sought from the councils procurement team to ensure that the award of any contract complies with Public contract regulations 2015 and the councils contract rules.

Health and wellbeing implications

4.27. It is not in the public interest nor that of the providers to not support the ongoing sourcing of PPE during this current crisis and in particular, as we also work towards resetting business priorities, business continuity and reintroductions into the workplace post lockdown. Little or no PPE will also mean a risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the Council's own staff and workforce.

Staffing implications

4.28. There are no staffing implications arising out of this report, unless staff across the marketplace and internal resource continue to take time off as a result of Coronavirus or the lack of safe supplies of PPE.

Reducing Inequalities

4.29. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is completed and accompanies the report.

Consultation

4.30. All providers across Walsall and its partners are engaged with daily around Coronavirus: infection control linked to coronavirus and safe use of PPE and also the lack of supplies /prioritisation of supplies dependent on prioritising vulnerability of the provider or the people in their care

5. Decide

5.1. Cabinet is requested to consider the content of this report and to agree the recommendations as outlined in section 3.

Respond

- 6.1. Subject to the Cabinet decision, officers will continue to order, source and fund PPE until such times that COVID-19 has passed or that local supply chains are restored sufficiently to enable local providers and businesses for ASC and Children agendas to provide their own, and in particular as part of reintroducing the workforce and business back post Lockdown.
- 6.2. Discussions will continue with the CCG for agreement on the amount of recharges back to ASC.

7. Review

7.1. The arrangements with regards to the ordering and supplies will be managed and reviewed in line with ordinary Council procedures

Background papers

None

Kerrie Allward Executive Director

(Tarriss).

Date Date

Councillor Rose Martin Portfolio holder

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) for Policies, Procedures and Services

Proposal name	Emergency supplies of F COVID-19	Personal Protecti	ive Equipment –	
Directorate	Adult Social care Directorate			
Service	Adult Social care Directorate & WHT			
Responsible Officer	Jeanette Knapper			
Proposal planning start	Emergency plan commenced March 2020	Proposal start date (due or	Retrospectively End of March	
	due to COVID-19	actual date)	2020 and onwards	

1	What is the purpose of the proposal?	Yes / No	New / revision
	Sourcing and distributing PPE across the Whole cakeyworker roles /volunteers Direct payment recipie		
	Policy	N	N
	Procedure	Υ	Υ
	Guidance	Υ	Y
	Is this a service to customers/staff/public?	Y	Y
	If yes, is it contracted or commissioned?	Both	
	Other - give details	Emergency supplies of PPE as result of COVID-19	
2	What is the business case for this proposal? Pl purpose of the service, intended outcomes and	-	
	There is a national shortage of Critical PPE supplied heightened risk of illness, symptoms and death of there is no suitably appropriate and sufficient Per (PPE) as part of infection control and guidance for	vulnerable people sonal protective Eq	where uipment

England and (PHE) Public Health England .Local suppliers of PPE supporting the range of approximately 164 care providers across Walsall, is sporadic and none reliable currently, this is creating heightened risks and a surge of demands realting to accessing supplies

The local supplies are also needed to support not just people within Residential and nursing care provision, but local domiciliary care market; Supported Living: Extra care, Direct payment recipients, carers who are in need of PPE to support people at home: voluntary sector providers and internal staff working as keyworkers providing care and support to people across Walsall.

3	Who	is	the	pro	posal	like	ly t	o	affect [*]	?

People in Walsall Detail Yes

All	Y	All people who require the support of social care
Specific group/s	Y	resource for PPE during the COVID-19 and the
Council employees	Υ	corona virus pandemic
Other (identify)		Specific groups of people who are receiving care and support from one of the 164 providers of care and support across Walsall and who are struggling to safely support people in the absence of their local supplies of PPE Internal workforce young children and their families as we introduce schools back to Business as usual post COVID-19 Council employees and external workers who are delivering front facing care and support to vulnerable people during the pandemic

4 Please provide service data relating to this proposal on your customer's protected characteristics.

- National guidance in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, released on 19 March 2020, requires all people to receive the correct level of support when discharged from Hospital settings. The Guidance in relation to the safety and wellbeing of people in the community also refers to evolving amended guidance that comes collectively via NHSE and PHE, then operationally interpreted and adopted locally across the NHS partners PH and social care
- Since the spread of COVID-19 and the increased demands placed on the national and regional agendas where supplies of PPE are concerned, there became a real urgency to support local people via the Local Authority securing regular and appropriate supplies of PPE to bolster dwindling supplies that were coming through to Providers and internal workforce via the usual supply chain.
- The National Disruption Supplies and also the Local resilience arrangements
 have met with sporadic response and capacity. The local council has received 6
 consignments of PPE from the LRF (Local Resilience Forums) and again, these
 have not been sufficient in terms of timing nor amount of supplies delivered, to
 meet the growing demands of the local population who require this
- A surge in demand in the last few days has also meant that the stocks ordered by the LA to support the local communities, is also running low and there is a need for continuous and regular orders to be processes so as to maintain a steady and regular flow of stock into the Borough to stem the flow and steady the marketplace and support for vulnerable people
- COVID-19 presents differently across all segments of society by what we have learned so far. Asymptomatic people and people confirmed COVID may all be supported in the same environment, however where this is within a residential or nursing home setting there are significant increases in terms of staff absence due to COVID as well s heightened risks of severe illness, sadly in some cases deaths, due to the virus or associated characteristics.
- Importance of Safe working practices, the implementation of safe distancing and in the workplace or at someone's home . there is an increased need for use of

PPE when providing personal care and support

- The Walsall Adult social care service is therefore working to continually source and provide supplies of critical PPE items in order to reduce risk of infection and to also maintain the safety and wellbeing of all in that process
- Walsall is also working to support all education settings across Walsall to be reintroduced into the buildings as part of the national guidance post COVID- 19 ans continue to supply PPE between now and December 2020 alongside he internal workforce for Walsall council also being reintroduced into the workplace and buildings post COVID-19
- All of this will be supported by initiatives, support and guidance for infection control via Public Health colleagues and support via Health and safety and HR colleagues for peoples wellbeing

Please provide details of all engagement and consultation undertaken for this proposal. (Please use a separate box for each engagement/consultation).

Several organisations including Walsall Council, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and Walsall PH have been involved in discussions and pro- active work in order to support the homes, providers, individual staff and vulnerable people at home, by encouraging people to use the PPE that they have got access to, safely. There is also an urgent reminder daily to homes and the provider market place to follow the guidance set out by NHE and PHE

The regular orders for PPE is also being supported by the Regional ADASS group and the Regional Heads of Procurement group. The engagement across Region, national and local agendas are to ensure there is a consistent message around the importnance for the local access and supply of urgent PPE items

The Provider services within ASC are therefore engage daily with Procurement colleagues

Providers across the board are engaged daily as aprt of the ongoing level of support to ensure people are as safe and well maintained as possible.

All providers across Walsall have received information and contact details about how to access PPE from the local Supply store at Goscote

Engagement with partners and the wider customers who use services across ASC and childrens services currently have been part of the regular updates and amendments to National guidance around PPE and safety during the COVID-q19 outbreak in relation to the longer term plans to develop a stroke service, will include a far wider reaching engagement calendar the none urgent agendas currently being worked through across the partnerships due to COVID-19.

Engagement also takes place daily across the local and regional resilience forums-locally (Bronze: Silver and GOLD command.

Type of			
Type of engagement/consultation	ASC Internal workforce engagement and awareness raising via Perform+ :teams call and the Bronze calls as part of the command meetings	Date	Daily from Mid March 2020
	Daily calls and face to face visits to provider services externally via Quality and assurance teams: WHT colleagues or PH Daily calls from commissioners to all provider forum (vol attendance into the calls)		
Who attended/participated?	Front line staff via teams –as at engaged with as part of their ne PPE ie via Social worker calls; petc	eds when re	quiring
Protected characteristics of participants	All people will remain at the cercommunication and actions to saffects of COVID-19 and the neor places, are monitored closely as part of the actions to support this time of uncertainty and cha	upport to coleds of priority via the data	y groups collected ately during
are just wanting the re	n front line staff providers and vu eassurance that PPE is available of urgent and consistent need		
Concise overview of all evid	dence, engagement and consu	tation	
we are delivering currently.	communications are in place as		
How may the proposal affect	ct each protected characteristic	or group?	
	ct each protected characteristic negative, neutral or not known		ons

needed Yes / No

			1=		
	Age	.:11:4.,,	This is a very positive plan and one where	,	
	Disab	onity	need to continue to order and source urge the support of lead officers and cabinet m		
		er reassignment	understand and acknowledge the full requ		
		age and civil	around this agenda		
		ership nancy and	-		
	mater				
	Race				
	Religi	ion or belief			
	Sex				
	Sexua	al orientation			
	Other	give detail)			
	Furth	er information			
8			other proposals to have a cumulative	(Delete one)	
			roups? If yes, give details.	Yes / No	
	The immediate crisis resolution affects everyone. The risk is heightened if there is an				
	outbreak affecting more than two people within one area. The aims of securing funding				
	approval to continue to purchase PPE for local use, means that there is a mitigatile				
action that can be continued, in order to strive to continually reduce risk and death in some cases as a result of COVID-19				urtilei iiiriess	
	and d		Count of Covid 10		
9	Whic	h justifiable action does	the evidence, engagement and consultat	tion	
	feedb	ack suggest you take?			
	Α		a result of urgent needs around PPE and		
			s is readily available for the local social c	are cohorts,	
		volunteers internal key	workers and Carers –Due to COVID-19		
	В	Adjustments needed to	o remove barriers or to better promote ed	quality	
	С	Continue despite poss	ible adverse impact		
	D	Stop and rethink your	proposal		
		otop and rouning your	L L		

Action and monitoring plan

Action Date	Action	Responsibility	Outcome Date	Outcome
22/4/20	Consider and accept the EQIA alongside the Cabinet report and associated documentation	To amend and update as and when needed as aprt of the actions against COVID-19		
12.5.20	Consider the EQIA alongside the need for the Urgent action waiver	Ensure the EQIA is submitted with cabinet report for the 17 th June 2020		

Update to EqIA		
Date	Detail	

Use this section for updates following the commencement of your proposal.

Contact us

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Inside Walsall: http://int.walsall.gov.uk/Service information/Equality and diversity