

Cabinet – 11 September 2024

Community Reablement – Phase 1

Portfolio: Councillor Pedley – Adult Social Care

Related portfolios:

Service: Adult Social Care

Wards: All

Key decision: Yes

Forward plan: Yes

1. Aim

- 1.1 The aim of this report is to outline and seek approval for procurement related to the provision of Community Reablement – Phase 1 from 1 November 2024 to 31 March 2025.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report outlines proposals for the procurement of Community Reablement support funded by Adult Social Care (ASC), which is a key decision because it will continue to commit the Council to incur expenditure above the value of '£500,000' and it affects all wards across the borough.
- 2.2 It is proposed by ASC that one main provider will be awarded a contract, with one other provider awarded a contract as a contingency, following completion of a compliant procurement process.
- 2.3 Phase 1 is acting as a pilot before we proceed with a Phase 2 open tender procurement process for the long-term arrangement.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet delegates authority to accept tenders and award contracts for the provision of Community Reablement services, for a period from 1st November 2024 until 31st March 2025, with the option to extend the contract by up to a further 6 months by the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, following completion of the tender.
- 3.2 That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care to enter into

contracts for these services and to subsequently authorise the sealing of any deeds, contracts or other related documents for such services.

- 3.3 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care to authorise any variations to the contractual arrangements or other related documents for such services should this be required throughout the duration of the term of any contracts, provided they are in line with the Council's Contract Rules and any relevant legislation, including Public Contract Regulations 2015.

4. Report detail - know

Context

- 4.1 A community reablement service is required to maximise people's level of independence and it is about delaying and mitigating the longer need for care and support. The Council has seen a year-on-year increase in the level of home care hours provided due to increased complexity of needs, but also an increase in contacts and demand.
- 4.2 Councils have recognised that an effective reablement offer, or short period of support, at the first point of contact with Adult Social Care is the most effective way to support a person around their quality of life and well-being, as well as manage increasing demand and costs for home care.
- 4.3 Adult Social Care have been working to introduce a strength-based approach to support people with well-being and independence. Having a reablement offer is a key part of ensuring the Council has the right approach and has the right conversations with people in those early stages.
- 4.4 There is a current (commissioning) gap in that Walsall people cannot access reablement if they approach the Council for an assessment of their care and support needs.

Reablement should be accessible to local people on a universal basis. Currently reablement is only available to people who have been hospitalised (or would have been hospitalised e.g. accessed admission avoidance services) before being referred into intermediate care reablement.

- 4.5 The key principles of community reablement are to delay or mitigate the longer-term need for care and support. Therefore the commissioned service will have an emphasis upon delivering positive person centred re-abling outcomes, reducing subsequent hospital admissions, reducing demand for long term commissioned (including Direct Payments and residential placements) services and also facilitating access to community services e.g. diversion for people with lower-level needs in the medium term e.g. during 25/26 and the development of an associated offer for people with dementia.
- 4.6 The service will be delivered for 25 days on average and it will support people with many areas including:

- Encouragement, prompting, building confidence plus encourage people to have standing and sitting tolerance
- Moving and handling techniques and/or use of appropriate equipment;
- Personal hygiene including continence care, washing and dressing;
- Assistance with nutrition and hydration;
- Prescribed medication administration;
- Maintaining a habitable home and making use of the environment safely;
- Accessing the community and making use of local facilities;
- Emotional and psychological support;
- Support to use assistive technologies.

4.7 Through the development of a Business Case/Options appraisal a number of different reablement models have been considered. This has now led to approval by the ASC Continuous Improvement Board of a hybrid model – community reablement service led by-Occupational Therapists with elements of the associated care and support (e.g. night-time calls) delivered through the independent sector care market. There would also be associated training and support coordinated by the in-house team to support the independent sector provider.

4.8 This service offer will deliver better outcomes for people including avoiding hospital admissions and the likelihood of person needing Adult Social Care, but this Phase 1 project will also deliver significant financial savings/cost avoidance for the Council.

Council Plan priorities

4.9 One of the key areas of focus in the Council Plan 2022 -2025 for 'People' is to:

- encourage our residents to lead more active fulfilling and independent lives to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing.
- have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities.

Risk management

4.10 The risks and mitigation associated with the programme have been considered as set out below:

Risk		Mitigation
1.	Following the 6-month phase 1 proof of concept period the assumptions made, recruitment planning etc. do not enable us to commence full implementation.	An exit strategy if the 6 months 'proof of concept' reveals that we are unable to recruit the right staff, procure the right care, unable to see the cashable benefits etc.

2.	Not identifying an independent sector provider which is willing/able to deliver required model following a compliant procurement process	Already undertaken work with procurement colleagues on robust market engagement feeding associated learning into tender process and testing the appetite of the providers to bid.
3.	Risk of negative impact upon existing hospital admission reablement service in terms of recruitment and independent sector provision i.e. providers losing longstanding experienced reablement carers to the local authority.	Robust HR linked planning to ensure that existing service is not significantly impacted and/or existing LA staff are supported to move into reablement service roles.

Financial implications

- 4.11 The initial in year cost of this contract for the five-month period from 1 November 2024 to 31 March 2025 is £684k. This is based upon the procurement of 1,260 hours per week at £25 per hour. This cost will be funded from within the existing domiciliary care budget and additional investment approved within the 2024/25 budget. The Community Reablement Service will enable reductions in the ongoing long term care needs of service users and is estimated to deliver savings of £3.3m in 2025/26.

Legal implications

- 4.12 The Directorate has, in consultation with Legal Services, elected to use the Council's standard contract for goods and services. This has been modified as required by Legal Services to fit the mini competition and ensure the contract is sufficiently robust, as well as to ensure the Council's best interests are fully protected and minimise any risk of a legal challenge.
- 4.13 The procurement is to be carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's best value duty.

Procurement Implications/Social Value

- 4.14 The procurement process will be conducted via the Councils' e-procurement portal, in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the Regulations), the Council's Contract Rules and Social Value Policy.
- 4.15 Steps will be taken to minimise procurement-related risk. However, there will always remain an inherent risk of legal challenge associated with any procurement undertaken by the Council.
- 4.16 Input has and will continue to be sought from Procurement and Legal Services, as required to ensure the conduct of a compliant procurement process and contract arrangements.

- 4.17 Social value will be evaluated as part of this procurement process in line with the Council's Social Value charter and policy.
- 4.18 The procurement process being used is a closed competition under the Light Touch Regime of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 4.19 The contract will run from 1st November 2024 until 31st April 2025 with the option for the Council to extend for a period of up to 6 months.

Property implications

- 4.20 There are no property implications for the Council.

Health and wellbeing implications

- 4.21 This will enable the Council to promote independence and to support people to live as independent as possible.

Reducing Inequalities

- 4.22 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not required because this contract is related to the Community Based Services (CBS) Contract where an EQIA has already been completed for this service.
- 4.23 This service will not impact adversely on the community due to the nature of the service and will enhance the independence and quality of life of service users which are often disadvantaged.
- 4.24 For Community Reablement - Phase 2, the Council will ensure an EqIA is completed.

Staffing implications

- 4.25 There are no staffing implications arising out of this report.

Climate Impact

- 4.26 There are no specific climate change implications contained within this report.

Consultation

- 4.27 Soft market testing has been conducted with the market to inform the development of the specification. The specification will also stress the importance of collaboration with the Council in-house team as part of on-going service development.

5. Decide

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

6. Respond

Subject to Cabinet approval of the recommendations, ASC will:

- i) Award the contracts to the successful applicants
- ii) Reassure Cabinet that ASC will retender for services via an Open Procurement Process for Community Reablement – Phase 2

7. Review

ASC will monitor impact and lessons learnt through the contract in line with our contract management process

Appendices

None

Background papers

None

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