

To: **Executive**
18th July 2023

STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT PLAN
Independence Support & Supported Living Flexible Framework
Executive Director of People

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek Executive approval for the Strategic Procurement Plan (SPP) to tender for an “Independence Support & Supported Living Flexible Framework” to commence on 1st January 2024 for an initial 3 year term with the option to extend by up to a maximum of 3 years (including individual 1-year extensions or a combination thereof).

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 Executive to approve the Strategic Procurement Plan for procuring an “Independence Support & Supported Living” service through a flexible framework under the Light Touch Regime as detailed in the Strategic Procurement Plan.

2.2 Executive to delegate authority for the Supported Living Flexible Framework award decision to the Executive Director, People, following consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The procurement will ensure the council meets its statutory duties of The Care Act 2014 which sets out clear expectations for local authorities, including:

- ensuring that people in need of services have a wide range of choice and are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions about their care
- ensuring sustainability of the market and sufficiency of provision
- ensuring appropriate oversight of delivery and the accountability of providers

3.2 A Flexible Framework ensures a compliant approach to contracting with supported living providers. The Framework will provide an overarching specification with required standards and outcomes to be met. This will provide a consistent approach to contract monitoring and quality assurance.

3.3 A Flexible Framework allows a fair, transparent, and consistent approach to sourcing provision. All providers that are successful in their bid to join the Framework will be able to bid for individual packages with a robust, transparent call-off process in place, ensuring good outcomes and value for money.

3.4 A Flexible Framework allows the council to specify a pricing structure as part of the tender process. This will facilitate a fair and transparent approach to pricing and once fully mobilised will enable the council greater control of costs and ability to forecast spend.

3.5 The Framework Lots will each set out clear criteria and requirements for the support provision. This helps to set expectations for each type of service both in terms of activity and cost.

3.6 Extensive benchmarking, cost analysis and modelling has been undertaken to establish the pricing strategy for the Framework. Providers will be required to adhere to the pricing principles and submit their pricing within the range specified.

4. Alternative Options Considered

4.1 As Detailed in the Strategic Procurement Plan

5. Supporting Information

5.1 Supported Living models and commissioning approaches have developed significantly since the closure of long stay hospitals in the 1990's. The Valuing People White Paper in 2001 led to a fundamental shift away from residential care and hospital settings to the development of supported living settings in the community.

5.2 Since then, policy and good practice, as well as evidence from large scale reviews such as Winterbourne View Review, have continued to champion a rights-based approach to the development of small, local, community-based settings for people with learning disabilities and autism.

5.3 Person centred approaches have developed to enable people to have choice, control, independence as well as active roles as citizens, with access to employment and learning and support to maintain friendships and relationships.

5.4 Supported Living is not itself a regulated activity. However, aspects of support such as personal care is. This means the majority of providers are regulated, which offers quality reassurances and governance under the regulatory body of the Care Quality Commission (CQC). As a mark of standards and expectation all Providers under the proposed framework will be required to be registered with the CQC.

5.5 CQC set out the statutory guidance relevant to the provision of supported living services, both in terms of the duty to assess people in need of care, and in terms of the regulatory approach for services for people with a learning disability or autism. The underlying principles of the guidance are:

- Right support: Model of care and setting maximises people's choice, control and independence
- Right care: Care is person-centred and promotes people's dignity, privacy and human rights
- Right culture: Ethos, values, attitudes and behaviours of leaders and care staff ensure people using services lead confident, inclusive and empowered lives. The Care Act also sets out duties on Local Authorities to facilitate a diverse, sustainable high-quality market for their whole local population and to promote efficient and effective operation of the adult care and support market as a whole to ensure continuity of care in the event of provider failure and service cessation.

6. Consultation and Other Considerations

6.1 Legal Advice

Comments are detailed in the Strategic Procurement Plan

6.2 Financial Advice

Comments are detailed in the Strategic Procurement Plan

6.3 Procurement Advice

Comments are detailed in the Strategic Procurement Plan

6.4 Operational Review

Comments are detailed in the Strategic Procurement Plan

Other Consultation Responses

6.5 The project team has representation across Legal, Finance, Procurement, Commissioning, Access to Resource and Operational teams

6.6 For the specification development the project team continue to consult with operational adult social care teams, as well as service users and their families.

6.7 Consultation with the market sought initial views of providers. The engagements were undertaken to robustly reflect service users' voice and capture the views of the market.

6.8 Consultation showed commitment and support for the project and an interest amongst the market.

6.9 Equalities Impact Assessment

An Initial Equalities Screening Record Form has been completed.

The screening determined that a full Equality Impact Assessment was not required.

6.10 Climate Change Implications

The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO₂.

As this is re-provision of an existing service, analysis concludes that the recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions or the environment.

6.11 Health and Wellbeing Considerations

The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to have a positive impact on the Health and Wellbeing of those in receipt of services.

The reasons the Council believes that this will have a positive impact on the Health and Wellbeing of those in receipt of services are in regards the revised contractual terms with greater focus on outcomes and the opportunity to develop services and the market through the provisions of the Framework.

6.12 Strategic Risk Management Issues

The project identified some strategic risks that needed to be considered.

These risks are detailed in the Strategic Procurement Plan

Contact for further information

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