

Report to Executive Director Adults and Health

November 2020

Care and Support at Home Framework Agreement

Report by Head of Commissioning

Electoral division(s): All

Summary

Care and Support at Home services (also known as domiciliary care or home care) are currently commissioned through two contract frameworks. In January 2020 a decision was taken to re-commission the Care and Support at Home arrangements (Decision reference AH11 19/20). The process was suspended in light of the Covid19 pandemic and the impact on the care market. It opened again in August 2020 but it will not be completed in time to commence the new arrangements prior to the end of the current Framework.

The proposal is to extend the 2015 Care and Support at Home Framework until 3rd July 2021 in order to avoid a break in provision and ensure continuity of service until the new Care and Support at Home arrangements are in place.

Recommendation

The Executive Director Adults and Health is asked to approve the extension of the 2015 Care and Support at Home Framework until 3rd July 2021 to enable smooth transition to the commencement of new Care and Support at Home arrangements on 4 July, 2021.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The adult social care vision and strategy is to support people to live healthy and independent lives and, as they grow older to prevent and to delay them developing social care needs. Care and support at home services (also known as domiciliary care or home care) are the largest proportion of non-residential services that the Council purchases for older people currently supporting over 2200 customers to retain their independence at home.
- 1.2 The Council commissions care and support at home from two framework contracts. There are currently 25 providers on the care and support at home framework agreement 2015. There is also currently in place a pre-existing

legacy framework agreement from 2009 for the spot purchase of care and support at home through which around 50 additional providers deliver care and support at home service. A decision was taken to recommission the Care and Support at Home agreements to replace both the existing 2015 Care and Support at Home Framework and the legacy framework agreement, with the new services to commence on the 6th January 2021.

1.3 This opportunity for the new framework was published on 6 March 2020 but due to the Covid-19 pandemic was suspended on 27 March 2020. Following some enquiries to a number of providers which indicated that providers may be in a better position at that time to be able to respond to the tender, this was re-published on 10 August 2020. Due to the delay to the procurement it is not possible for the new Framework to commence as intended on the 6th January 2021, with the current timeline now targeting a 4th July 2021 start date.

1.4 The original tender for the 2015 Care and Support at Home Framework was let with a maximum timeframe of 6 years, until August 2021 and therefore even with the extension, the agreement remains within the original timeframe.

2 Proposal details

2.1 It is proposed that the 2015 Care and Support at Home Framework is extended from 6th January 2021 to 3rd July 2021 in order to avoid a break in service provision and ensure continuity of services for the residents of West Sussex.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

3.1 Not extending the 2015 Care and Support at Home Framework would mean around 1600 customers being supported outside of a contract agreement and would present potential difficulties in securing provision for new customers. This option presents significant risks and was therefore discounted.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

4.1 Service providers have been kept informed of the delay in the tender process, were notified of the recommencement in August 2020 and engagement has been undertaken through the new tender process which has outlined the timescales.

5 Finance

5.1 Revenue consequences for current arrangements are outlined below which reflect the continuation of current services. The current spend on care and support at home services per annum is circa £28m. The costs will continue until July 2021 at which point the new arrangements will commence and the budget will move to paying for the new Care and support at Home services. Whilst the expenditure impact is significant, this is a continuation of current spend rather than additional costs, so there is no direct impact on the budget.

	2020/21 £m	2021/22 £m
Budgeted cost of service for the extension period	7*	7*
Estimated cost of service during the extension period	7	7
Effect of proposal	Nil	Nil

*£7m is 3 months effect from 6 January to 31 March 2021 and £7m is three months effect from 1 April to 3 July 2021. The contract needs to be extended from 6 January to 3 July 2021. From 4 July 2021 the new contract will commence.

5.2 The effect of the proposal:

How the cost represents good value

5.3 Extension of the current arrangements would ensure continuity of service provision and would not require the Council to seek other arrangements which either may not be available at all or may be available at a higher cost. The existing services currently being delivered are expected to remain at the same cost, although as the timeframe goes into a new financial year a separate decision will be taken regarding any annual uplift to these arrangements through a decision to be taken prior to April 2021.

Future savings/efficiencies being delivered

5.4 None – The extension will ensure continuation of the existing services.

Human Resources, IT and Assets Impact

5.5 The proposal makes best use of human resources internally by ensuring continuation of arrangements. The proposal to extend the existing arrangements would therefore not present further impact, including avoiding the need to procure interim arrangements to secure provision.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Providers don't agree to the extension	Ongoing communications with contracted providers. If providers do not agree to the extension other 2015 providers will be sought to deliver services in the interim. The legacy framework agreement may be used as a reserve where the main 2015 framework providers are unable to respond. Use

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
	of the legacy framework will be kept to a minimum.
Risk of challenge	<p>The original notice in the Official of the Journal of the European Union for the 2015 Care and Support at Home Framework included a potential maximum period of up to 6 years with associated maximum contract value.</p> <p>Extending the Framework Agreement for the period proposed within this report is permitted under the procurement regulations.</p> <p>In addition, the new Care and Support at Home Framework Agreement has been released as an open tender and all providers can respond to the tender for the new arrangements, the process for which is proceeding as planned.</p>

7 Policy alignment and compliance

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty under the Care Act to meet the assessed eligible social care needs of residents of West Sussex. The commissioning of care and support at home services enables the Council to purchase personal care services for people with eligible social care needs in order to discharge this duty.
- 7.2 The delivery of care and support at home services involves a significant amount of travel which has an impact on the environment. A sustainability assessment has been completed and identifies the positive impact the arrangements could have on social value and sustainability, with potential reduction in travel being one example to reduce carbon footprint. The extension will incur a planned delay in the place based approach intended to improve the environmental impacts of the services under the new approach.
- 7.3 There are no anticipated Crime and disorder implications.

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None