

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

**Reference Number:**

**3978**

**Author:**

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**Department:**

**Children and Adults**

**Contact:**

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**Subject:**

**Assistive Technology Care Alarm Service for 2020**

**Total Value:**

**£54,000 (Type: Revenue)**

**Decision Being Taken:**

**1) To approve retrospectively the extension of the contracted service provision for the Assistive Technology Care Alarm Service for 2020, including expenditure of up to a maximum of £54,000. 2) To approve the award of a supply contract to Nottingham City Homes as a wholly-owned subsidiary. 3) To delegate authority to the Director of Commissioning and Procurement to enter into the contract, and to the Head of Contracting and Procurement to sign the contract with the service provider.**

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

The Assistive Technology (AT) Winter Pressures Service was launched in December 2018. It funds a package of support, including a care alarm and sensors (smoke detectors/falls sensors) that are installed in a citizen's home, along with a monitoring and response service provided by Nottingham On Call. AT packages are to be provided for citizens referred from key teams within Adult Social Care for a maximum duration of 13 weeks, with no charge to the citizen. The 2019/20 AT Winter Pressures arrangement ended on 31 March 2020 and, in order for support to continue to vulnerable adults who are self-isolating or have reduced contact with family, carers or friends, it is recommended that the service is extended as a new AT Care Alarm Service for 2020.

Retrospective approval is required because, operationally, the service infrastructure was in place from April 2020, enabling the service to continue with no impact upon service users. The £54,000 allocated to the AT Care Alarm Service for 2020 is estimated to be enough to support approximately 337 packages, using a calculated average package cost of £160.05. It is not possible to place an end date on this service because monthly referrals into the service will fluctuate and so we anticipate that the service will continue to be delivered until the funding is exhausted. During the service, and once the funding has been exhausted, Commissioners will review the service. The outcome of this review will inform help to inform commissioning intentions for AT alarms services commissioned by the Council in 2021.

It is anticipated that the AT Care Alarm Service for 2020 will be funded through the non-recurring winter pressures grant funding, which will be included within the Better Care Fund (BCF) allocation for Nottingham City. This is external funding with conditions attached and additional agreement will be required from external partners. Once the full allocation has been confirmed, a report with full details of how the allocation will be spent will be taken to Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee.

The rationale to award to Nottingham City Homes (NCH) and not procure the service is based upon the following:

-The AT Care Alarm service model has been operating for 2 years and supports the Reablement Team in facilitating safe hospital discharges for citizens who require support to live independently in their own home. This award provides value for money because the Winter Pressures service model is now an established element of the hospital discharge process and NCH's role in partnership working has been effective in contributing to reducing delayed transfers of care and in reducing the reliance on Homecare when a discharge is completed. The provider will not be subject to setting up a new service infrastructure which would incur additional costs.

-An evaluation of the service provided during 2019 indicated that it is meeting intended outcomes. The findings in the evaluation highlight the value of AT in supporting citizens going through reablement and achieving cost savings in social care. Due to the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions, citizens who have been in receipt of the service from April 2020 have been required to self-isolate, shield, or have been restricted from moving home into alternative accommodation in order to receive support. This has disrupted usual support networks and the provision of AT can support citizens to remain safe at home.

**Other Options Considered:**

To do nothing: as this would bring the current service to an immediate close, this option was rejected.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Published Works:** **None**

**Affected Wards:** **Citywide**

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** **None**

**Consultations:** **Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.**

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** **None**

**Equality:** **EIA not required. Reasons: This is a continuation of existing activities, so does not represent a change to a policy, service or function. Any proposal for changes to the service will be subject to an EIA.**

**Social Value Considerations:** **Not applicable**

**Decision Type:** **Portfolio Holder**

**Subject to Call In:** **No**

**Person Consulted: Not applicable**

**Consultation Date: 05/08/2020**

**The decision seeks retrospective approval for a service continuation that has been implemented already.**

**Advice Sought:** **Legal, Finance, Procurement**

**Legal Advice:**

**When awarding contracts for supplies, works and services the City Council must comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ('the Regulations').**

**Nottingham City Homes (NCH) benefits from the 'Teckal' exemption set out in the Regulations, which enables the City Council to award contracts to NCH as wholly-owned subsidiary without having to undertake a competitive tender process. The existing arrangement with NCH for the Assistive Technology (AT) support are considered to offer value for money and will ensure continued service provision for those deemed most in need during this difficult period. The same service will be delivered, albeit as a model for short-term support rather than for winter pressure support. It is understood that longer-term requirements for the service are to be reviewed and the outcome of the review will inform help to inform further commissioning intentions for AT alarms services in 2021.**

**The existing contract will need to be extended to reflect the additional support to be provided by NCH to the extent of the fixed amount of funding available, which is understood to have already commenced.**

**Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 30/07/2020.**

**Finance Advice:**

**This decision seeks approval to extend the current Assistive Technology (AT) care alarm service contract from April 2020 with Nottingham City Homes (NCH).**

**The total cost of this decision, £54,000, will be funded from the 2020-21 Winter Pressures grant funding, which will be subject to a separate joint approval process with Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).**

**The Winter Pressures grant now forms part of the wider Better Care Fund (BCF) grant. We are expecting to receive the national 2020-21 planning template shortly, which will be completed in partnership with Nottingham City CCG. The template, once complete, will go to Nottingham City Health and Wellbeing Board for formal approval before being returned to NHS England.**

**Extract from NHS England website:**

**"Although BCF plans from April 2020 will not have been formally approved, for the duration of the current outbreak of COVID-19, systems should assume that spending from ringfenced BCF funds, particularly on existing schemes from 2019-20 and spending on activity to address demands in community health and social care, is approved and should prioritise continuity of care, maintaining social care services and system resilience."**

**The AT care alarm service has been funded from the Winter Pressures grant for the past 2 years, however, if there are any changes to the grant conditions this year which means this decision can no longer be funded from the grant in year, the service must identify alternative funding to fully mitigate this expenditure across Adult Social Care ensuring there is no adverse impact on the Council budget.**

**The existing arrangement with NCH for this AT support is considered to offer value for money and will ensure continued service provision for those deemed most in need during this difficult period.**

**As outlined in the Legal and Procurement advice, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council covered by the 'Teckal' exemption under the Procurement Regulations, NCH may be awarded this funding directly under a contract, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules (2.6.10 and 2.6.11).**

**Advice provided by Hayley Mason (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 02/08/2020.**

**Procurement Advice:**

**This decision relates to the award of funding to Nottingham City Homes (NCH) to deliver Assistive Technology services from April 2020. As this is a proposed continuation of an existing arrangement, NCH has established structures in place to deliver the service required and to offer value for money. As a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council covered by the 'Teckal' exemption under the Procurement Regulations, NCH may be awarded this funding directly under a contract, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules (2.6.10 and 2.6.11).**

**Advice provided by Jo Pettifor (Procurement Team Manager) on 28/07/2020.**

**Signatures**

**Adele Williams (Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Local Transport)**

**SIGNED and Dated: 04/09/2020**

**Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)**

**SIGNED and Dated: 24/08/2020**