

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4787

Author:

Helen Carlin

Department:

People

Contact:

Helen Carlin

(Job Title: Business Improvement & Transformation Manager, Email: helen.carlin@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 8763502)

Subject:

Commissioning of external provision for Occupational Therapy reviews and assessments in Adult Social Care

Total Value:

£200,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1) To commission external capacity for completion of targeted occupational therapy- led reviews and assessments in quarters 3 and 4 of 2022/23, up to the value of £0.2m. Any further work above this amount will be subject to a further decision. 2) To make a direct award to a suitable and experienced provider to deliver the external capacity through call off from an appropriate external framework at an agreed cost per assessment.

Reasons for the Decision(s) There are currently approximately 550 people waiting for a Care Act assessment at various access points: 650 waiting for occupational therapy assessment and no capacity to deliver occupational therapy review. These backlogs are increasing. Investment into more capacity to carry out this work has been shown to reduce overall spend in the care purchasing budget. Due to recruitment and retention issues across adult social care, there is insufficient capacity to carry out this backlog of reviews. There is a financial cost to increased delays and reduced proactive work as crisis response usually will costs more, and the ability to reduce unnecessary support through proactive review and re-assessment is compromised. As well as the cost of delays, there are missed opportunities to proactively review people using a strengths-based approach, which would potentially result in right sizing packages to meet needs, and associated savings. This new contract request is to support the Strength-Based Reviews project, part of the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme. This Programme is overseen by the Council's Transformation Board which is guided by the Improvement and Assurance Board. The programme is in delivery and additional investment is requested to achieve the target savings forecast in 2022/23. Without investment the savings predicted through this element of the Transformation Programme will not be achieved and likely impact the forecast of the medium-term financial plan. The current agency has continued to carry out proactive strength-based social work reviews to meet needs and achieve associated savings through the right sizing of packages. The current agency has not been able to identify any occupational therapy capacity to deliver targeted reviews. A direct award is requested to utilise the £200,000 in a timely manner, and before 31 March 2022 This cost has already been factored into budget forecasts for Adult Social Care. This revenue has been accrued through vacancies and held posts, and it is anticipated this cannot be rolled over into 2022/23. No approval from Contract Procedure Rules is required as this will be a direct call off for framework with the Workforce Alliance.

Other Options Considered: Doing nothing has been rejected as an option because Adult Social Care does not have the capacity to clear these assessments and reviews, meaning that they will continue to build up. The likelihood of demand increasing across at least some areas is high, based on health and care joint system pressures i.e. hospital admissions, increased complexity of care needs, and usual seasonal demands plus likely increased demand as a result of Covid.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: None

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: N/A

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

Crime and Disorder Implications: None

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: This decision does not represent changes to a policy, service or function.

Social Value Considerations: This decision supports community resilience, enabling individuals to become more independent, strengthening social and community networking and participation. This decision supports participation in voluntary activity and networks.

Decision Type: Officer

Executive Decision? Yes

£50,000 or more: Yes

Scheme of Delegation Reference Number or Other Source of Delegation: 1

Subject to Call In: No

This is an officer decision and therefore not subject to the call in process

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice: It is noted that the proposal will be using a framework to commission external capacity for completion of targeted Occupational Therapy. The framework has specific call-off terms for awarding contracts. The framework will also specify the process for using suppliers under the framework.
Legal services have no concerns in respect of the proposal if the requirements of the framework are met and subject to the Council's Constitution and Public Contract Regulations 2015 being complied with.
Advice provided by Amana Parveen (Solicitor) on 23/11/2022.

This decision seeks approval for;

- 1) The commissioning of external provision to undertake reviews and assessments capacity for completion of targeted Occupational Therapy Led reviews and assessments in quarter 3 and 4 of 22/23, up to the value of £200,000.**
- 2) Request a direct award with a suitable and experienced provider to deliver the external capacity through call off from an appropriate external framework at an agreed cost per assessment.**

This is due to recruitment and retention issues across the Adult Social Care Service as well as the rising backlogs and delays as outlined by the report author.

Funding Sources:

This decision will be funded from the Adults budget, as incorporated in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). These costs have already been factored into budget forecasts for Adult Social Care for 2022/23 and are linked to agreed activity within the Transformation Programme, so this decision will not cause any adverse movement in the in year forecast outturn position.

A direct award is requested to utilise the £200.000 in a timely manner, and before March 31st.

Any changes to that outlined in this decision will be subject to further approval via the appropriate approval process.

The overall impact will be reduced financial costs by reduction of delays, clearing the backlog of 550 people waiting for a Care Act assessment and 650 waiting for Occupational Therapy assessment as well as increased opportunities to proactively review people using a strengths-based approach, which would potentially result in right sizing packages to meet needs, and target savings.

Financial impacts will be captured within the updated Medium Term Financial Plan.

Risks and Mitigation:

This new contract request is to support the Strength-Based Reviews project, part of the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme. This Programme is overseen by the Council's Transformation Board which is guided by the Improvement and Assurance Board.

A suitably qualified supplier will be sourced through a call off from an appropriate external framework. This process and a competition under the framework will ensure that value for money is secured for the organisation. Outcomes achieved will be closely monitored and evaluated before any further work is requested from the provider.

The activity and the staffing budget underspend and posts that will be funded as a result of the decision will be robustly monitored to ensure that the expenditure approved via this decision is not exceeded and that costs do not exceed existing budget provision incorporated within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Considering all the above comments, there are no other foreseen risks relating to this project

Advice provided by Harriet Kateregga (Interim Senior Finance Business Partner) on 10/11/2022.

Procurement Advice:

The proposal involves using a framework to commission external capacity for completion of targeted Occupational Therapy. The framework has specific call-off terms for awarding contracts. Provided the framework process is followed, the award of contract would be compliant with procurement law and therefore there would be no significant Procurement concerns. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 14/10/2022.

Signatures:

Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)
SIGNED and Dated: 24/11/2022