

## Operational Decision Record

<b>Publication Date:</b> 23/12/2022	<b>Decision Reference Number:</b> 4807
<b>Decision Title</b>	
Winter Pressures Care Alarm Service 2022/23 (BCF funded)	
<b>Decision Value</b>	
£27,000	
<b>Revenue or Capital Spend?</b>	
Revenue	
<b>Department</b>	
People	
<b>Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)</b>	
Anna Coltman <a href="mailto:anna.coltman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">anna.coltman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Decision Taken</b>	
To approve the award of a contracted service provision for the Assistive Technology Care Alarm Service for 2022/23, including expenditure of up to a maximum of £27,000, from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.	
<b>Reasons for Decision and Background Information</b>	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The 2021/22 AT Winter Pressures arrangement ended on 30 September 2022. In order for support to be provided to vulnerable adults being discharged from hospital, who have reduced contact with family, carers or friends, and need support to remain living independently at home or in the community, it is recommended that the service operates from 1 October 2022 until 31 March 2023.</p> <p>The £27,000 allocated to the AT Care Alarm Service for 2022/23 is estimated to be enough to support approximately 191 packages, using a calculated average package cost of £141. We anticipate that monthly referrals into the service will fluctuate so the service will continue to be delivered until the contract ends on 31 March 2023.</p>	

Commissioners are reviewing the Council's AT offer to citizens, which includes the Winter Pressures alarms service. The separate report will include recommendations for the service from April 2023 onwards.

It is anticipated that the AT Care Alarm Service for 2022/23 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. The full allocation, with full details of how the allocation will be spent is submitted 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 three 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.
- The role of NCH 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.

### **Other Options Considered and why these were rejected**

To do nothing: as this would mean that vulnerable citizens leaving hospital would not receive a service and may increase the need for additional home care support. This option was rejected.

### **Reasons why this decision is classified as operational**

The budget required for this service is part of the Better Care Fund. Approval of the Better Care Fund 2022/23 planning requirements took place at the Health and Wellbeing Board Commissioning Sub-Committee on 30 November 2022 ([Agenda for Nottingham City Health and Wellbeing Board Commissioning Sub-Committee on Wednesday, 30th November, 2022, 3.30 pm - Nottingham City Council](#))

### **Additional Information**

#### **Legal Advice:**

The decision concerns the direct award of a contract to Nottingham City Homes, for provision of Winter Pressures Alarms Services to residents until March 2023. The

service is already provided by Nottingham City Homes (a Nottingham City Council owned local authority trading company) under existing contractual arrangements that expired in September 2022. Nottingham City Homes housing related functions will come under the full control of the Council in-house in March 2023. At that point it is not yet clear whether the Council will provide the service in question in-house or a third party provider will need to be found. This proposal minimises the risks that may be associated with a possible novation of a contract if it were to be awarded for a longer period.

For public supply and service contracts falling within scope of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR's) i.e. over the threshold of £213,477, it is possible to make a direct award for such a contract to an entity controlled by a local authority to the extent specified in regulation 12, without the award of the contract to the entity needing to comply with the procurement tender process in part 2 of the PCR's. This is known as a 'Teckal Exemption'. Under Article 18.28-18.30 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, when buying services the Council can consider entering into arrangements with one of its subsidiary companies, if it meets the 'Teckal Exemption'. Arrangements falling within the 'Teckal Exemption' are excluded from the Contract Procedure Rules expectation such that quotations and tenders as detailed in article 18.55 need not be sought, subject to best value still being achieved.

Although the 'Teckal Exemption' under the regulations technically applies to local authority controlled entity arrangements (awards of contracts) over the PCR threshold and only arrangements falling within the 'Teckal exemption' are expressly excluded from the Contract Procedure Rules, the article 18.28-18.30 exemption, is intended by the Council to cover the award of lower value contracts to local authority owned entities and is interpreted in this manner in procurement terms.

This decision can proceed as an operational decision within the remit of the delegated authority to the Director, as its value is below £150,000 has now been confirmed it is being taken within a pre-agreed strategy, policy and budget.

### **Finance Comments**

This report seeks approval for the award of a contracted service provision for the Assistive Technology Care Alarm Service for 2022/23, including expenditure of up to a maximum of £27,000, from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

### Funding

Total maximum value of the decision is £27,000 for the six months period as outlined in the report

The funding for this decision is from an existing approved budget as incorporated within the Council Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) via winter pressures grant funding, which is now part of the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) allocation for Nottingham City.

The £27,000 allocated to the AT Care Alarm Service for 2022/23 is estimated to be enough to support approximately 191 packages, using a calculated average package cost of £141.

The monthly forecast indicates that monthly referrals into the service will continue to be delivered until the contract ends on 31 March 2023. The expenditure against this grant will be in line with any grant conditions imposed by the awarding body.

All expenditure linked to the IBCF and BCF is contained within the 2022/2023 planning template approved by NHS England (NHSE). This plan is also approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board via the commissioning and procurement sub-committee.

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. Benefits and added value.

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

1. The AT Care Alarm service model has been operating for three years and supports the Reablement Team in facilitating safe hospital discharges for citizens who require support to live independently in their own home.
2. This award provides value for money because the Winter Pressures service model is now an established element of the hospital discharge process.
3. The role of NCH 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.
4. The provider will not be subject to setting up a new service infrastructure which would incur additional costs.

As highlighted, the findings in the evaluation carried out in 2019 indicated that it is meeting the target outcomes and highlight the value of AT in supporting citizens going through reablement and achieving cost savings in social care.

Potential risks of non-approval of this decision would mean that vulnerable citizens leaving hospital would not receive a service and may increase the demand for additional home care support resulting in an increased pressure on the allocated budgets.

Any changes to the outlined decision would require further approval via the appropriate approval routes.

Harriet Kateregga  
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Procurement colleagues have been consulted on this decision.

<b>Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)</b>
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Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People
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<b>Scheme of Delegation Reference Number</b>
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<b>Date Decision Taken</b>
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14/12/22
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