

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	5044
Author:	Richard Groves
Department:	People
Contact:	Richard Groves (Job Title: Service Provision Manager, Email: richard.groves@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 07908136524)
Subject:	Additional funding for external providers to provide reviews and assessments in Adult Social care
Total Value:	£429,000.00 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To continue with planned reviewing activity, as part of the Strength Based Review Transformation Programme, with the 2 existing external providers.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>There are currently approximately 460 people waiting for a Care Act assessment at various access points: 692 waiting for occupational therapy assessment and no capacity to deliver occupational therapy reviews. 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 historical 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 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 request is to continue activity forecast in 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 2023-24. 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 agencies have continued to carry out proactive strength-based social work reviews to meet needs and achieve associated savings through the right sizing of packages. This revenue has been acquired as part of the Market Sustainability Improvement Fund and has already been factored into budget forecasts for Adult Social Care. Both providers have already been acquired through appropriate Frameworks.</p>

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. Recruiting own temporary workforce - has been rejected. History demonstrates that we have sustained difficulty in recruiting to temporary posts and providing internal temporary movement of staff only adds to existing pressures in the service.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: None

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: Not applicable.

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

Crime and Disorder Implications: None

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: 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: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 31/10/2023

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

This decision seeks authority and funding to secure external providers to undertake 'out of date' reviews where this work cannot be undertaken 'in-house' for the reasons set out above.

The Care Act 2014 imposes a duty on the Council to keep under review care and support plans. In trying to meet this duty, the Council has already engaged external provides to undertake such reviews. These providers were sourced via a framework and the intention is to use the same providers as they are now fully up to speed on the Council's systems and approach; to engage other providers would entail delays to get them up to speed, further delaying reviews thus impacting directly the beneficiaries of such reviews and potentially increasing the risks to the Council of successful claims.

It is intended to engage the providers via 3rd party frameworks. This should provide a compliant route to market. Colleagues should ensure that the framework terms and conditions meet the requirements of the Council and the Council is able to comply with any obligations those terms and conditions impose on it.

Anthony Heath, Senior Solicitor, 2nd August 2023

Advice provided by Anthony Heath (Senior Solicitor) on 02/08/2023.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval for the expenditure of up to £0.429m on additional external review capacity as outlined by the report author.

This DDM relates to continuing activity under the Strength Based Transformation Programme. The Programme plans delivery of a total of 2,478 reviews in 2023/24 at a cost of £1.191m, delivering in-year savings of £1.293m.

The £1.191m total activity cost is broken down as follows, however it is to be noted that the total value of this DDM is only £0.429m and relates to point 2 below:

1 - £0.333m - expenditure already funded within the 2023/24 budget from one off Transformation funding - approval already in place due to slippage in 2022/23 approved activity so no further approval required, as advised by Constitutional Services.

2 - £0.429m - this DDM seeks approval for additional expenditure of £0.429m to be funded from the 2023/24 Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund.

3 - £0.429m - this further element of potential expenditure does not form part of this DDM and will be subject to a separate approval process. This expenditure has been built in to the P2 forecast position and is not budgeted in 2023/24, therefore contributing to the overall forecast overspend position.

For the £0.429m additional expenditure outlined in this report, It is proposed that this will be funded from the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund in line with grant conditions. The total value of the 2023/24 Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) is £3.629m (the full receipt of this funding was approved during the 2023/24 Council MTFP budget process) and a separate report is currently being drafted to seek approval for the expenditure plans against the total value of this funding (if this decision is approved, the £0.429m will just be noted in the subsequent MSIF report for completeness).

Adult Social Care do not have the capacity to clear these assessments and getting them delivered supports in year savings built into the 2023/24 budget of £1.293m as well supporting the full year impact of savings built in to the wider Transformation Programme in 2024/25+.

Once the decision is approved, a budget virement will need to be posted to realign the budgets to support robust budget monitoring. The service must ensure that the costs are monitored closely to ensure they do not exceed the value of the approvals in place and that no further budget pressure arises as a result of this decision.

Any changes to that outlined in this decision will require further approval via the appropriate approval route.
Advice provided by Joanna Jenkins (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 03/07/2023.

Procurement Advice:

The decision to be taken concerns the spend of additional funding and to enter into a new contract with the existing service providers. The initial contract was let in compliance with NCC Contract Procedure Rules and tendered via a mini-competition to ensure best value. The new contract costs will be the same or lower than originally tendered and will continue to provide best value to the Authority.

The decision to be taken raises no significant procurement concerns. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 02/08/2023.

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 23/10/2023
Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)
SIGNED and Dated: 19/10/2023