

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

5077

Author:

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Department:

People

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Subject:

Further funding for external providers to provide reviews and assessments in Adult Social care

Total Value:

£429,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1) To continue with planned reviewing activity, as part of the Strength Based Review Transformation Programme, with the 2 existing external providers. 2) To note that the associated spend has been approved by the Section 151 Officer through the Spend Control Board (Reference: ID 129)

Reasons for the Decision(s)

There are currently approximately 260 people waiting for a Care Act assessment at various access points and 600 waiting for occupational therapy assessment with no capacity to deliver planned reviews. Investment into more capacity to carry out reviews has continued to reduce spend in the care purchasing budget. 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 and beyond. 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 project has now completed 3220 reviews but additional funding is required to meet the current target of 3947. This activity continues to demonstrate a return on investment over the term of the medium term financial plan. The current agencies have continued to carry out proactive strength-based reviews to meet needs and achieve associated savings through the right sizing of packages. How much money has the project spend to date?

The project has committed the forecasted £1,379,000 to date. Activity is currently paused while we wait for the decision on the further forecasted £429,000.

How many reviews does the project plan to complete?

At least 3947 reviews and reassessments to deliver the programme target . There are at least 727 reviews left to complete. There are also mileage and training costs associated with the Occupational Therapy provider.

What does reviewing activity save?

Reviews completed by our social work practitioners achieve an average saving of £659 per year.

Reviews completed by our occupational therapy practitioners achieve an average saving of £1166 per year.

At December programme board, the planned activity outlined above is due to achieve £12.434m gross cumulative savings across the MTFP. 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. This new spend had previously been noted as a financial pressure but has since been included in the forecasted use of the market sustainability improvement fund. Both providers have already been acquired through appropriate Frameworks.

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. 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:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

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:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

26/01/2024

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

This decision seeks authority and funding to secure external providers to continue with 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 undertake and 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 (which will have provided a compliant route to market) 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.

Procurement colleagues will advise on the applicability, or otherwise, of Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 as the decision appears to involve the modification of existing contracts.

Colleagues should ensure that the framework terms and conditions continue to 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, 24th November 2023 Advice provided by Anthony Heath (Senior Solicitor) on 24/11/2023.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks authority and funding to continue the use of external assessment and reviewing resources to support the Transformational Strength Based Review Project. In total £0.760m of funding has been allocated against this project in 2023/24, funded through Transformation Programme carry forward from 2022/23 of £0.321m and the use of Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund (MSIF) Grant of £0.429m. Spend to date against this programme is £0.687m and approval is now sought for a second tranche of MSIF of £0.429m taking total approval and planned spend in 2023/24 to £1.189m

Advice provided by Mark James Astbury (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 17/01/2024.

Procurement Advice:

This request concerns the extensions of contracts with two external suppliers for provision of Strength-Based Reviews, part of the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme. The contracts if approved will be extended in accordance to Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Both contracts have been sourced in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules.

Spend Control Board ref 129 approval refers. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 18/12/2023.

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health)

SIGNED and Dated: 19/01/2024

Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)

SIGNED and Dated: 19/01/2024