

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3516

Author:

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Department:

Children and Adults

Contact:

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Subject:

Winter Pressures 2019-20 Funding

Key Decision (decision valued at more than £1million):

Yes

Total Value:

£1,550,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- (1) To accept and use the 2019-20 Winter Pressures Funding from the Department of Health and Social Care, along with the delegations and contract allocations as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (2) To extend the Wellbeing at Home Volunteer Service pilot with Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire for a period of 6 months from 1 April 2019, under dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29.
- (3) To delegate authority to the Head of Contracting and Procurement to sign the contract with Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Winter Pressures 2019-20 Funding

In response to the pressure on hospital beds in winter, the Department of Health and Social Care made an allocation to all local authorities on 17 October 2018. The allocation to Nottingham City Council was set at £1,550,028 for 2018/19 and a further commitment has now been given to make an additional allocation of the same amount for 2019/20. A further process has taken place locally with partners to agree the utilisation of this allocation. Agreement has now been given to these proposals, subject to this approval.

Commissioning spend associated with this decision will be £62,000 in 2019/20, which relates to the extension of a pilot project, delivered by Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (Age UK N&N). The remainder of the grant funding will be used for additional Council staffing resources, which has been approved through a separate Human Resources Delegated Decision. A breakdown of commissioning and staffing spend is included at Appendix 1.

Commissioning Spend - Extension of contract with Age UK N&N

Age UK N&N is delivering a pilot project to support citizens to return home from hospital and provide additional support to citizens in the community. These citizens would ordinarily need a package of homecare to safely remain at or return home. The pilot started on 17 December 2018. Age UK N&N provides a brief intervention to ensure that citizens are safe in their home on return from hospital. This can include a welcome home pack, checking the home is safe, performing safe and well checks and periodically managing and escalating risks where citizens are waiting for a package of homecare from the Nottingham City Council Reablement Service. Delivery includes health and wellbeing interventions such as ensuring utilities are working, that medicines are available, there are meals in the house and that relatives or friends are aware of the situation.

Age UK N&N has been able to initiate the pilot quickly and efficiently. Early indications are that the service is freeing up capacity in the Council's Reablement Service and that for this level of intervention, the service is more cost effective. The pilot has worked coherently and effectively with the Care Bureau and the Council's Reablement Service, and feedback from citizens is very positive. It has not yet been possible to fully evaluate the potential effectiveness of delivery due to how quickly the project has been initiated. The speed of initiation has meant that the service has been mostly delivered by paid staff, rather than volunteers. It is intended that the service will in future run with a higher ratio of volunteers to paid staff, which will further improve the cost effectiveness of this intervention. In addition, it is intended to increase the scope of the service to pick up some referrals direct from hospital, in order to prevent the need for formal homecare. The extended pilot will enable us to measure this modification to the model, as well as the overall cost effectiveness of the service.

Funding for the extended pilot will come from 2019/20 Winter Pressures money, which is a newly secured income stream. If the pilot can demonstrate further cost savings and continued improved outcomes for citizens, it is expected that this service will be tendered on the open market. If this is the case, a further decision will be submitted prior to the end of the current pilot to secure authorisation to tender and for any necessary extension of the pilot to enable procurement to take place.

The purpose of the new service is that it will continue to free up capacity in the Council's Reablement Service in a more cost effective manner. This will ensure fewer delayed transfers of care and improve flow through the homecare system. This approach will use untapped capacity in the form of volunteers and due to this model, it is expected that there will be a number of added value benefits, such as alleviating social isolation and increasing community engagement. These outcomes are proven to be a preventative factor in deterioration of health that could lead to subsequent hospital admissions.

Age UK N&N was successful in a three quote procurement process to deliver the initial service. The reasons for not going out to tender at this time are that an extension would be a continuation of the current pilot and that Age UK N&N has the knowledge, skills, staff and volunteers in place to deliver this service immediately, rather than creating a gap in service delivery. During the pilot the service will be monitored to evidence the impact on cost effectiveness, the extent to which it frees up capacity in the Council's Reablement Service and improved outcomes for citizens.

Briefing notes documents: Appendix 1 - Nottingham City Council Winter Pressures 2019-20 Summary Plan.xlsx

Other Options Considered:

1. Not to accept the money. As the money has been allocated by the Department of Health and Social Care in response to pressures on hospital beds in winter following last year, this has been rejected. The funding has been allocated to the Council in order to make provisions to address winter pressures within the City.
2. To go out to tender for the service. This option is not recommended. There would be a gap in service delivery for a pilot that is showing signs of alleviating pressure on the Nottingham City Council Reablement Service and realising positive health and wellbeing outcomes for citizens at a lower cost.
3. End the service. This option is not recommended. The current and potential future benefits of the service are outlined above and these would not be realised by ending the service.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: DD3356 - Winter Pressures Funding (<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4680>)

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Dispensation from Financial Regulations: Yes

Consultations:

Date: 18/03/2019

Other: Cllr Webster - Portfolio Holder Briefing

Consent was given to all of the proposals outlined in this decision.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: None

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: Commissioning Spend - EIA not required. This is a continuation of an existing pilot and therefore will have no changing impact on citizens.

Social Value Considerations:

Both the internal and commissioned proposals will support the employment of a locally based workforce. All of the required activity will take place in Nottingham City Council premises or in the homes of Nottingham citizens. The Hospital to Home Service utilises volunteers who are given training and supervision and will provide valuable skill in seeking permanent employment. Current Lead providers for Home Care have strong links with Nottingham City's Employment Hub and this is also required as part of the new contract with the Carers Trust.

Decision Type:

Leader's Key Decision

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

15/05/2019

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The proposals in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

The funding has been offered by the Department of Health and Social Care to support winter pressures.

It is understood that the existing pilot with Age UK as detailed within the report has been successful to date but to fully evaluate the effectiveness, develop the requirements and reap the benefits of the project more efficiently, it is felt that a further extension of 6 months is required.

The current provider is well integrated to the pilot and so procuring an alternative provider would not only result in a gap in service, but also in a substantial duplication of work and costs, which is therefore not recommended.

The services are considered to be light touch under the procurement regulations and the extension falls well below the current threshold for these services. In light of this, the recommendation for dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Issues) is supported on the basis that if following the pilot, there is the requirement for the services to continue beyond the pilot term, that a tender process will be undertaken.

The remainder of the funding mentioned in this decision will be used to support additional Council staff resources under various headings seeking to address reduced winter pressures on the NHS. The nature of these resources has been approved under a separate decision.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 16/04/2019.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval for the use and application of the ring fenced £1.550m grant associated with the 2019/20 Adults Winter Pressure funding. This grant has specific conditions which have been met.

The external 2019/20 expenditure included in this decision is £0.062m, the remaining grant funding will be used to support additional staffing resources which have been approved through a seperate internal HR decision process.

This decision seeks dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) to award a contract extension to Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to deliver the Wellbeing at Home Volunteer Service pilot for a further six months from 1/4/19 to 30/9/19 and given reasons detailed by the report author, this is deemed appropriate in this instance. The total cost of the contract extension, to be funded by this Winter Pressures funding is £0.062m and this is outlined in Appendix 1 of this decision.

Advice provided by Hayley Mason (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 16/04/2019.

Procurement Advice:

The decision to seek dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) to award a contract extension to Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to deliver the Wellbeing at Home Volunteer Service pilot for a further six months from 1/4/19 to 30/9/19 is supported by Procurement.

Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 08/04/2019.

Signatures:

Jon Collins (Leader of the Council)
SIGNED and Dated: 07/05/2019
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)
SIGNED and Dated: 02/05/2019
Laura Pattman (Strategic Director of Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 29/04/2019
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: