



Report of: Deputy Director, Integrated Commissioning, Adults and Health

Report to: Director of Adults and Health

Date: 12 June 2019

Subject: Request to approve non-recurrent funding to Carers Leeds

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): n/a		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		

Summary of main issues

1. Approval of additional funding of £188,978.33 to Carers Leeds to ensure that projects previously funded by non-recurrent sources are able to continue without disruption to staff and carers alongside the extension of the existing Carers Support Service contract.

Recommendations

1. This report recommends that the Director of Adults and Health approve funding to Carers Leeds for up to ten months, from 1st June 2019 to 31st March 2020, in order that projects previously funded via non-recurrent sources are able to continue without disruption to staff and carers alongside the contract extension approved by the Director of Adults and Health on 15th May 2019. The funding required is £188,978.33.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Director of Adults and Health to provide funding to Carers Leeds for up to a ten month period from 1st June 2019 to 31st March 2020 in order that projects previously funded via non-recurrent sources are able to continue without disruption to staff and carers alongside the contract extension approved by the Director of Adults and Health on 15th May 2019. The funding required is £188,978.33.

2. Background

- 2.1. Carers Leeds currently provide a Carers Support Service in Leeds and have recently been awarded the contract to deliver the new Information, Advice and Support Service for Adult and Parent Carers contract through a competitive procurement process.

3. Main issues

- 3.1. Unpaid carers provide the bulk of care in Leeds and without them the NHS and social services would be overwhelmed. Increasing numbers of unpaid carers are taking on responsibility for more intensive levels of care. However, carers often feel isolated, that they are not respected or valued, and that the huge contribution that they make is taken for granted and overlooked. This combination is known to impact upon their physical, mental and economic health and wellbeing
- 3.2. It is widely recognised that effective information, advice and support for carers can break down these barriers and reduce the health inequalities that carer's experience, meaning they are more able to continue caring and balance their caring role with a life of their own. This can prevent and/or delay the point at which they and/or the person they care for access and become dependent on the health and care system.
- 3.3. Following an open procurement process, the Director of Adults and Health awarded a contract to Carers Leeds to deliver an Information, Advice and Support Service for unpaid adult and parent carers in Leeds. The contract was set to commence on 1st April 2019 for a period of five years with options to extend the contract up to a further two years.
- 3.4. Following the award of the contract to Carers Leeds and during the mobilisation period for the commencement of the new contract, Carers Leeds notified the Council that commercially sensitive sub-contracting issues between Carers Leeds and Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust (LYPFT) needed to be resolved before the new service could commence.
- 3.5. As a result of these sub-contractual issues, on the 29th March, the Director of Adults and Health implemented the following decisions:
 - To extend the Carer Support Services contract with Carers Leeds for a period of two months from 1st April 2019 to 31st May 2019.

- To suspend the commencement of the new Information, Advice and Support Service for Adult and Parent Carers contract with Carers Leeds for a period of two months from 1st April 2019 to 1st June 2019.
- Approve funding to Carers Leeds for a two month period from 1st April 2019 to 31st May 2019 in order that projects previously funded via non-recurrent sources are able to continue without disruption to staff and carers alongside the contract extension

3.6. Carers Leeds and LYPFT have initiated discussions but, due to the complexity of the issues, will not be able to resolve them within the two month extension period. A further extension to the Carer Support Services contract, and a further suspension of the commencement of the new contract are required in order that Carers Leeds and LYPFT are able to resolve sub-contracting issues. The implementation date for the above action is scheduled for 30th May 2019 as follows:-

- To extend the Carer Support Services contract with Carers Leeds for a period of ten months from 1st June 2019 to 31st March 2020.
- To suspend the commencement of the new Information, Advice and Support Service for Adult and Parent Carers contract with Carers Leeds for a period of ten months from 1st June 2019 to 31st March 2020.

3.7. Projects previously funded via non-recurrent sources will also need to be funded in order that they are able to continue without disruption to staff and carers.

3.8. The council's main aim in making this decision is to ensure the continuation of this vital service to carers while sub-contracting issues are satisfactorily resolved.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1. Consultation and engagement

4.1.1. Consultation and engagement was undertaken in relation to the new service as described in the contract award report.

4.1.2. The Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults has been briefed on the proposals contained in this report.

4.2. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1. Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening has been completed and is attached at Appendix 1.

4.3. Council policies and Best Council Plan

4.3.1. Effective support for carers is a key component in supporting strong communities and is at the heart of being a caring and compassionate city. As such, the service will contribute to the delivery of key outcomes in the Best Council Plan.

4.3.2. Effective support for carers also contributes towards the ambitions in the Leeds Health & Wellbeing Strategy, particularly how we put in place the best conditions in Leeds for people to live fulfilling lives. Identification of carers and support to maintain and improving carers' physical and mental health and wellbeing are identified as priorities in supporting strong, engaged and well-connected communities.

4.3.3. Effective support for carers also makes a significant contributions to a number of breakthrough projects, in particular:

- Early intervention and reducing health inequalities
- Making Leeds the best place to grow old in
- More jobs, better jobs
- Strong communities benefiting from a strong city

4.4. **Resources and value for money**

4.4.1. Effective support for carers which promotes their wellbeing and enables them to continue caring makes economic sense as it helps to manage demand on health and care services. Carers help to maintain the health and wellbeing of the person they care for, support that person's independence and enable them to stay in their own homes for longer. Research undertaken by the University of Leeds estimates the cost of replacing unpaid care with paid care to be around £1.4billion per year in Leeds.

4.4.2. The cost of funding projects previously funded via non-recurrent sources is £18,898 per month. The total cost for 10 months is £188,978.33. The required funding is contained in the A&H base budget and includes funding transferred from NHS Leeds CCG. The initial contract value of the service is valued at £3,644,450.00.

Description	Annual Costs	Monthly Costs
Working Carers Project	£25,000.00	£2,083.33
Concerned Others	£27,000.00	£2,250.00
Bereaved Carers Project	£39,774.00	£3,314.50
Dementia Hub	£75,000.00	£6,250.00
GP Awareness Training	£15,000.00	£1,250.00
Hospital Based Support	£21,000.00	£1,750.00
Befriending	£24,000.00	£2,000.00
	£226,774.00	£18,897.83

4.5. **Legal implications, access to information and call-in**

4.5.1. This is a significant operational decision as the maximum cost of the service is less than £250k per annum.

4.5.2. The modification of contracts is governed under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 at regulation 72. This considers the extent to which a contract may be modified before it should be considered so substantially changed as to necessitate

a new contract. It also requires the consideration of the effect of cumulative variations. Therefore this needs to be considered in taking this decision.

4.5.3. The figures set out at paragraph 4.4.2 of this report show the value of the initial contract, and the proposed increase of the NHS Leeds CCG funding. Taking these figures into account, the modification of the contract by the addition of the CCG funding is 5.18% (£188,978) of the contract value.

4.5.4. The provisions of Regulation 72 (5) provide an exception “where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:—

(a) the relevant threshold mentioned in regulation 5 (£615,278.00), and

(b) 10% of the initial contract value for service and supply contracts and 15% of the initial contract value for works contracts,

provided that the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract or framework agreement.

In relying on this regulation, the Council will be required to send a notice to that effect for publication at EU level, in accordance with regulation 51.

4.5.5. The contract was entered into prior to the commencement of the 2015 regulations, but the provisions of regulation 72 were the result of preceding case law that was applied by the courts prior to 2015, so it would be the case that these would apply to this contract. The Director of Public Health needs to be aware of this risk and any potential mitigation of the risk in taking this decision.

4.5.6. In making the final decision, the Director of Adults and Health should be satisfied that the course of action chosen is the best course of action for the Council and should be satisfied that doing so it represents best value for the Council.

4.5.7. The contents of this report are not confidential.

4.6. Risk management

4.6.1. Leeds City Council will facilitate discussions between Carers Leeds and LYPFT and should Leeds City Council at any time throughout those discussions, be of the opinion that the issues will not be resolved by the end of the extension period, the contract will be re-tendered so that an appropriate service provider is identified to deliver the service from 1st April 2020.

4.7. If the funding is not agreed there is a real risk that a range of existing support for carers would cease to be provided, impacting on a number of carers who are actively being supported by the provider.

5. Conclusions

5.1. Leeds City Council are committed to supporting carers in Leeds and this decision will ensure continuity of service for carers while sub-contracting arrangements between Carers Leeds and LYPFT are satisfactorily resolved.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. This report recommends that the Director of Adults and Health approve funding to Carers Leeds for up to ten months, from 1st June 2019 to 31st March 2020, in order that projects previously funded via non-recurrent sources are able to continue without disruption to staff and carers alongside the contract extension approved by the Director of Adults and Health on 15th May 2019. The funding required is £188,978.33.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1. None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works