

Approval to extend the Community Based Short Breaks Contracts (DN387293)

Date: 7th December 2022

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

Report to: Director of Adults and Health

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Community Based Short Breaks provide a regular planned break from caring for carers of people who meet the national eligibility criteria for care and support.

This report seeks approval to extend the community based short breaks contracts which will enable existing clients to continue to receive the service without disruption as well as providing an option for potential new clients.

Throughout the extension period, Adults and Health will continue to develop and test the Community Wellbeing Model as part of its transformation of home care, and consideration will be given to the inclusion of community based short breaks within that model.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Adults and Health is recommended to approve a 24-month extension of the current contracts for community based short breaks contracts (DN387293) with the extension commencing on 1st April 2023 at an indicative contract value of £2,402,460 across all providers on the agreement for the 24 months period. The providers are Allied Healthcare, Carers Trust Mid Yorkshire, Meridian (previously Synergy) and Springfield Healthcare.
- b) The Director of Adults and Health to note that throughout the extension period, Adults and Health will continue to develop and test the Community Wellbeing Model as part of its transformation of home care, and consideration will be given to the inclusion of community based short breaks within that model.
- c) The Director of Adults and Health to note that the Head of Service (Integrated Commissioning) will be responsible for implementing the decision with support from Procurement and Commercial Services and Financial Services.
- d) The Director of Adults and Health to note budget based on estimate expenditure in 23/24 and 24/25 to be moved from Adult Carers budget to Social Work and Social Care from 1st April 2023.

What is this report about?

- 1 In July 2019, the Director of Adults and Health approved the award of contracts (DN387293) to Allied Healthcare, Carers Trust Mid Yorkshire, Synergy (now Meridian) and Springfield Healthcare (the 'Service Providers') for the delivery of community based short breaks which commenced on 1 November 2019 for a period of 3 years and five months. The original tender made provision for the option to extend the current contracts for a maximum period of 24 months in any combination.
- 2 Community based short break services enable carers to have a regular and planned short break from caring through a paid care-worker taking over the caring role while the carer has a break.
- 3 Eligibility for the service is determined by the Council's Adults and Health Directorate and is prioritised for people who meet the eligibility criteria for care and support as laid out in Care and Support (Eligibility Criteria) Regulations 2014.
- 4 This report seeks approval to utilise the full extension period in accordance with Contract Procedure Rule 21.3.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 It is widely recognised that having a short break from caring provides positive outcomes for carers and can prevent carers from developing needs for care and support themselves. Short breaks can enable carers to maintain social contacts, to pursue work, education, or leisure opportunities, or simply to recharge their batteries.
- 6 This report seeks approval to extend the community based short breaks contracts which will enable existing clients to continue to receive the service without disruption as well as providing an option for potential new clients.
- 7 Throughout the extension period, Adults and Health will continue to develop and test the Community Wellbeing Model as part of its transformation of home care, and consideration will be given to the inclusion of community based short breaks within that model.
- 8 Alongside this, work will continue via a sub-group of the Leeds Carers Partnership, to identify and implement initiatives which will lead to more unpaid carers from diverse BAME communities being supported to have a short break from caring.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 9 Supporting carers to have a short break from caring is a key priority in the Leeds Carers Partnership Strategy "Putting carers at the heart of everything we do" which in turn supports the Best Council Plan ambition of Leeds being a Compassionate City by setting out the priorities and objectives that, when taken together, will promote the health and well-being of carers and young carers in Leeds, and reduce the health and financial inequalities that carers experience due to caring.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 10 Supporting carers to have access to a break from caring was a key theme identified by carers and professionals during the engagement in developing the Leeds Carers Partnership Strategy Providers.

- 11 Each of the four Service Providers have indicated their willingness to continue to provide the service from 1st April 2023.
- 12 The Executive Member for Adults and Children Social Care and Health Partnerships will be briefed on the contents of this report.

What are the resource implications?

- 13 Community Based Short Breaks services are one of the ways that the council discharges its statutory duty under section 18 the Care Act 2014 to meet an adults needs for care and support or section 20 of the Care Act 2014 to meet a carers need for support”..
- 14 The combined annual indicative contract value is £1,201,230. However, the Council pays for care hours delivered and gives no guarantee that the indicative contract value will be available to a Service Provider as individuals may choose to have their service provided in other ways than by a commissioned service.
- 15 Since the contracts were awarded, expenditure has been below the indicative contract value. Projected spend in 2022/2023 is unlikely to exceed £350,000.
- 16 The hourly rates from 1st April 2023 will be subject to the annual fee review for externally commissioned adult care. Any increase to the hourly rate during the extension period will be subject to a formal decision by Director of Adults and Health and would be contained within the value of the recommendation. The hourly rates from 1st April 2022 are:
Allied Healthcare: £19.05
Carers Trust Mid Yorkshire: £20.35
Meridian: £18.82
Springfield Healthcare: £18.70
- 17 While the budget currently sits within the Adult Carers Budget, invoices are paid via the HCAIT system which sets expenditure against social work & social care services. It is therefore recommended that budget based on estimate expenditure in 23/24 and 24/25 is moved from Adult Carers budget to Social Work and Social Care from 1st April 2023.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 18 If the decision to extend is not approved, arrangements would either cease or shift to a spot-purchased arrangement. The first option would put the directorate at risk of failing to meet eligible need while the second would likely lead to paying an increased hourly rate. Both options could lead to having to identify an alternative service provider which would cause unnecessary disruption for the client and their carer.

What are the legal implications?

- 19 Contract Procedure Rule 21.2 allows a contract to be extended before its expiry date where it is in accordance with its terms and proves to deliver value for money.
- 20 The decision to extend the contracts will be treated as a direct consequence of the initial decision to procure as it was in the contemplation of the decision maker at the time the initial decision to procure was taken. Due to its value, the decision will be a Significant Operational Decision.
- 21 The original tender made provision for the current contracts to be extended beyond their initial term for a further period of 24 months. Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the extension of the current contracts, the contents of this report should be noted. In making a final decision, the Director of Adults and Health should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for the Council and that it is in the Council's interest and the public interest that the current contracts with the incumbent Service Providers are extended.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

22 **Not extending contracts:** Not recommended for the reasons set out in paragraph 18 of this report.

How will success be measured?

23 Monitoring will be undertaken to ensure the delivery of an effective service in line with the original service specification.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

24 The contract expires on the 31st March 2023. Following approval of the decision, officers from Integrated Commissioning will engage immediately with colleagues in Procurement and Commercial Services to initiate the contract extension award.

Appendices

- Equality, Diversity, Cohesion, and Integration Screening.

Background papers

- None