

North Somerset Council

Report to the Executive

Date of Meeting: 21st June 2023

Subject of Report: Adult Social Services Commissioning Intentions Strategy 2023 /2024

Town or Parish: All

Member Presenting: Cllr Roger Whitfield Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Safer Communities

Key Decision: Yes

Reason:

Executive approval is required to begin a commissioning process under the Council's Contract Standing Order Rules where a contract will exceed a value of £1m over the term of the contract/framework. This Commissioning Intentions Plan has been developed to set out a holistic view of the Adults Social Services commissioning plan for approval by the Executive.

Whether permission is required is clearly indicated against each item. Other work is also included where it is new commissioning activity but does not require specific approval. Items have been included wherever there is a possibility that the work may need to commence during the coming year.

Items listed in Appendix B are generally procurement activities that have already been approved or featured through previous reports, but which have either been carried over or will run over into 2024/25, but also include commissioning activity to extend contracts, some of which require approval due to the financial value exceeding the £500,000 threshold.

Recommendations

The purpose of this report is to set out the planned Adult Social Services commissioning priorities for the coming year and, where necessary, to seek approval to commence specific procurement activities or to extend contracts beyond their original term, specifically:

- a) To agree the Adult Social Care commissioning priorities for the year 2023-2024.
- b) To approve the commencement of activities listed in Appendices A & B, delegating to the Director for Adult Social Care, approval to determine the relevant procurement routes, and the award of any contract, in consultation with the relevant Executive Member(s).

- c) To approve activity listed in Appendices A & B the extension of any contracts that have already reached the term under the original permission to commence a procurement.

1. Summary of Report

The purpose of this report is to set out the planned Adult Social Services commissioning priorities for the coming year and, where necessary, to seek approval to commence specific procurement activities or to extend contracts beyond their original term.

The commissioning priorities set out within this document are intended to support the delivery of the Adults Social Services priorities, whilst supporting commissioning intentions as part of the forthcoming Commissioning Strategy. It will ensure that the available resources are used most effectively, to enable the residents of North Somerset to live as independently as possible, exercising choice and control whilst being assured that where support is commissioned on their behalf that it is of the quality they would expect. The commissioning team are focused upon a cross directorate approach which is person centred and outcome focused whilst supporting the delivery of the directorates savings targets as part of the Council Savings Plan.

2. Policy

This commissioning intentions report supports several of the Corporate Plan priorities, including:

BEING A COUNCIL THAT EMPOWERS AND CARES ABOUT PEOPLE.

- ❖ A commitment to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- ❖ A focus on tackling inequalities, improving outcomes.
- ❖ Partnerships which enhance skills, learning and employment opportunities.

AN OPEN AND ENABLING ORGANISATION

- ❖ Engage with and empower our communities.
- ❖ Empower our staff and encourage continuous improvement and innovation.
- ❖ Manage our resources and invest wisely.
- ❖ Embrace new and emerging technology.
- ❖ Make the best use of our data and information.
- ❖ Provide professional, efficient, and effective services.
- ❖ Collaborate with partners to deliver the best outcomes.

The Corporate Plan details about Adult Social Care

“The system for funding adult social care is widely recognised as no longer fit for purpose with a national solution for sustainable funding being essential. Care markets locally and nationally are challenged by rising costs, staff shortages and the ongoing need to maintain quality. As demand for these services increase in line with an aging population, so does the cost to the council, coinciding with almost a decade of reducing government funding for local authorities.”

We must commission a range of services across adult social care that prevent and / or delay people from needing to rely on statutory services for as long as possible. Details of how we will achieve this will reflect a move to offering better outcomes, that improve and maintain the confidence and therefore, wellbeing of service users. We also intend to focus on support for informal Carers to maintain their caring role, delaying the need for large packages of care and placements into care homes.

The services in this commissioning plan are key to the commitments in respect of Adult Social Services priorities for 2023/24.

Directorate Wide Commitments

Our Commitment	What is the Outcome we Expect
Enable people to have independence, access to services, and reduce inequalities.	North Somerset residents have good quality of life and good health and wellbeing.
Ensure we deliver and commission high quality services.	Residents have good quality of life and satisfaction with the services they receive.

Reablement and TEC Pathway Commitments

Our Commitment	What is the Outcome we Expect
Provide an effective wellbeing service.	We support people to remain part of their community and reduces overreliance on commissioned domiciliary care services.
Establish a therapy led reablement service, with TEC first approach for the whole community.	Preventing the requirement for statutory services and enabling people to stay in their own homes for longer.

Integrated Commissioning and ICP development commitments

Our Commitment	What is the Outcome we Expect
Contribute to the ICP development and ensure North Somerset has a voice.	Housing and social care voice is active in the delivery of ICP Partnership arrangements.
Contribute to the Development of Effective Housing with Support solutions for all adults with care and support needs	Supports quality of life for residents and satisfaction with the services they receive.

Operational Service Development commitments

Our Commitment	What is the Outcome we Expect
Ensure people have a variety of options for accessing information and identifying solutions.	People can get the right advice and information more quickly and conveniently.
Ensure carers are supported.	Carers have access to information and services to support them in their caring role.

3. Details

The 2023/24 Commissioning Priorities, identified in appendices A and B are designed to improve the coordination of our approach to demand management and

to support the best use of resources in recognition of improving outcomes and addressing budgetary pressures.

The key strategic drivers for the department include:

- ❖ Care Act 2014
- ❖ Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund
- ❖ Better Care Fund
- ❖ Health and Social Care Integration and the BNSSG Sustainable Transformation Plan
- ❖ Discharge to Assess
- ❖ The Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024
- ❖ North Somerset Housing Strategy 2022 - 2027
- ❖ North Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2024
- ❖ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- ❖ Council Savings Plan

Any Commissioning undertaken is supported by the Strategic Procurement Team.

The Contracts and Commissioning team is focused on developing an approach that is evidenced based, person centred, needs led, strength-based and outcome focused. There is a desire to maximise the level of co-production that can be incorporated in the commissioning process to ensure that the services commissioned optimise outcomes for the person receiving the support, the Council, partners, and the providers of those services. Commissioning is informed through evidence (both locally and nationally), best practice initiatives and local need, and undertaken in line with the Institute of Public Care commissioning cycle.

Individual pieces of work will be brought to the Executive for further consideration where this is appropriate, for example where service design is proposed as part of the commissioning process and new models of service delivery are proposed, but this is not necessarily reflected in the information in the Appendices as these may only be identified once commissioning projects commence.

An update on progress against plans will be provided to the ASH Executive Members every 6 months, including where any conflict for resourcing of activity during the year has resulted in revised plans.

Each approval includes delegation of further decisions in the process to the Director. Further decisions include the authority to agree the outcome of the commissioning activity to determine the detail of the services to be procured, the procurement route and the award of any contract. Decisions to award contracts will be taken in consultation with the relevant Executive Member(s).

4. Consultation

Ensuring effective ongoing consultation and engagement is fundamental to the commissioning process and is embedded into each commissioning priority and re-procurement process.

The Commissioning Priorities for 2023/234 have been developed in consultation with Adult Social Services Director, Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships and Housing Solutions, and relevant Heads of Services, as well as the Strategic Procurement Team.

Where appropriate, wider consultation will and has occurred across the wider BNSSG system and Integrated Locality Care Partnerships.

In addition, wider consultation and co-production of services is beginning to be developed with service users and their carers / families to ensure that services which are being commissioned, are appropriate, outcome focused and of the quality and standard we would expect.

5. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from this report. Each of the individual procurement activities or contract extensions will need to be considered within the available revenue and capital budgets for the activity.

Costs

NA

Funding

N/A

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The services considered in this Commissioning Intentions and Priorities report meet our statutory requirements and as such are covered by the Care Act 2014, Mental Capacity Act 2005, Mental Health Act 1983 as amended in 2009 and, where appropriate, the Children's and Families Act 2014. Local Authorities cannot provide these services themselves as the legislation requires them to be provided independent of the Local Authority or NHS Providers.

In addition, the Corporate Procurement Policy is adhered to, alongside the Contract Standing Order Rules.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Responding to the Climate Emergency is a council-wide commitment.

The environmental implications of the commissioning of these services will be considered as part of the procurement process in accordance with the Council's Procurement Strategy 2021-2025 and Social Value procurement guidance. In February 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency and an Ecological Emergency in November 2020 and pledged to provide the leadership to enable North Somerset to become carbon neutral by 2030. All opportunities to inform and work with service providers to tackle the climate emergency, reduce carbon emissions, build adaptation and resilience to the local impacts of a changing climate and to restore nature should be taken. The provision of locally accessible services is essential to supporting the take up of low carbon active travel such as walking and cycling.

A thorough risk assessment will be completed by the Procurement and Contracts and Commissioning Team, the results of which will be detailed in any Procurement Plan and built into the tender process to ensure that any implications are fully covered.

8. Risk Management

An overall risk rating of LOW has been determined, applying the principles of the corporate risk scoring matrix.

This has been achieved by considering that the impact of any delays in delivering the commissioning intentions could be considered medium / high due to the impact of our statutory duties in respect of our duty of care and risks to vulnerable residents. However, the perceived likelihood of significant delays in these commissioning intentions would be considered rare.

This is mitigated by bringing together all the identified commissioning priorities into a single place which creates an opportunity to ensure that we maximise our efficiency as commissioners and look for opportunities to align priorities across the department and reducing duplication.

Further mitigation is supported as a thorough risk assessment will also be completed by the Procurement and Contracts and Commissioning Team, against each individual activity, the results of which will be detailed in any Procurement Plan and will be monitored and mitigated throughout the procurement process and subsequent contract monitoring.

9. Equality Implications

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? Yes

For each commissioning priority an EIA will be undertaken at the stage of planning & procuring / developing services. Equality implications then continue to be considered within the monitoring and review of services.

To ensure that equalities issues and implications have been fully considered as part of each of the commissioning activities, the equalities impact assessments are reviewed by the Head of Service, and where required, guidance and support is sought from the council's equalities officer before procurement commences.

10. Corporate Implications

There are no known corporate implications, however, where a commissioning activity is likely to cross over into another Directorate, appropriate consultation will be undertaken.

11. Options Considered

The nature of most of our activity is statutory and therefore an options appraisal will be undertaken as part of any commissioning activity to inform best practice and most appropriate provision to achieve the desired service outcome.

Author:

Teresa Stanley
Head of Strategy and Commissioning

Owner:

Gerald Hunt, Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships and Housing Solutions

Appendices:

ASC Commissioning and Procurement Plan Appendix A (New Activity)

ASC Commissioning and Procurement Plan Appendix B (Existing or previously agreed Activity)

Background Papers:

N/A