

North Somerset Council

Report to the Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 2nd November 2023

Subject of Report: Adult Social Services Commissioning Strategy

Town or Parish: All

**Member Presenting: Gerald Hunt Assistant Director Commissioning,
Partnerships and Housing Solutions**

Teresa Stanley Head of Strategy and Commissioning

Key Decision: No

Reason:

The purpose of this report is for information only. There is no direct financial value attached to the Adult Social Services Commissioning Strategy.

Recommendations

The attached Adult Social Services Commissioning Strategy 2024 - 2031 is for information, and compliments the annual Adult Social Services Commissioning Intentions report, which in turn supports the delivery and commissioning of current and future ASS priorities.

The ASH panel are being invited to contribute and make comments on the Adult Social Services Commissioning Strategy.

The ASH panel are being asked to endorse the Adult Social Services Commissioning Strategy.

1. Summary of Report

Adult Social Services (ASS) currently does not have an overarching commissioning strategy and therefore, it was deemed essential to develop one, given that ASS spends approx. £100m gross per year commissioning individual care and support services.

The commissioning strategy is key to underpinning the direction of travel for North Somerset Council adult social services. It identifies our commissioning intentions to external providers in delivering our statutory responsibilities, under the Care Act 2014, for people with eligible care and support needs, to keep them safe from harm and neglect, and promote wellbeing. Adult social services also commission non statutory support services in line with our early intervention and prevention agenda.

This 7-year strategy defines our Adult Social Services overall mission and vision “To promote wellbeing by helping people in North Somerset be as independent as possible for as long as possible.”

2. Policy

This commissioning strategy supports several of the current 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 Strategy 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

This commissioning strategy is considered overarching, as it identifies and addresses the care needs of people living with a diverse range of conditions, from physical and mental disorders and learning disabilities, to people who are aging and becoming frailer.

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

The commissioning strategy outlines the current market position within adult social services, detailing provision, and occupancy and how the budget is divided between services.

The strategy sets out our commissioning intentions and priorities over the coming 7 years; identifying any gaps in service provision as well as setting out our plan in terms of meeting the evolving needs of those with eligible needs living within North Somerset.

The strategy contains a detailed action plan which focuses on developing and implementing regional and local approaches to market sustainability and improvement, quality assurance, work force and provider development, Technology Enabled Care and support for people to continue to live at home, including housing with support options. It also considers communication and partnership working, including the ICB and the wider system.

4. Consultation

Extensive consultation has been undertaken in developing this strategy, which is evidenced throughout the Commissioning Strategy.

Consultation has been undertaken with CLT and comments have already been incorporated into the Strategy.

Consultation is due to be undertaken with the Executive in December.

5. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications from the commissioning strategy, however it does reflect future intentions of how approximately £100m gross of commissioned services are deployed. However, each of the individual commissioned services will need to be considered within the available revenue and capital budgets for that activity.

Costs

N/A

Funding

N/A

6. Legal Powers and Implications

The services considered in this Commissioning Strategy 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 for all commissioning activity undertaken.

7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Responding to the Climate Emergency is a council-wide commitment. The environmental implications of the commissioning of the services considered within this strategy 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.

8. Risk Management

The commissioning strategy has been developed with the primary aim of ensuring that our most vulnerable residents in North Somerset, have access to the right services, at the right time, to enable them to remain independent and safe within their own homes, or accommodation which they deem as home.

The further aim of the strategy is to clearly inform the care market of the services that ASS has currently and need to develop over the course of the next 7 years, and beyond, in being able deliver sufficient, appropriate and high quality provision to meet the identified needs of those eligible for care and support.

Without this strategy, the care market is unable to work efficiently and effectively with us and for our residents, and services could be developed which are unsuitable and underutilised.

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

9. Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and has not identified any disproportionate impact on any identified groups.

The Commissioning Strategy should be viewed positively and should not result in any negative impacts on people requiring services.

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 has and will be undertaken.

The Commissioning Strategy has provided us with the opportunity to review and strengthen our opportunities for joint working across other Directorates, aligning priorities and improving effectiveness and exploring efficiencies which could be achieved by working more collaboratively.

11. Options Considered

The lack of any current commissioning strategy within the adult's directorate has deemed it essential that a strategy was prioritised and therefore the only appropriate option to take.

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.

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Appendices:

Commissioning Strategy, Adult Social Services and Housing Solutions 2024 - 2031

Background Papers:

N/A