

# North Somerset Council

## Report to the Full Council

**Date of Meeting: 16th April 2024**

**Subject of Report: Adult Social Services and Housing Commissioning Intentions 2024/25**

**Town or Parish: All**

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

**Key Decision: Yes**

### **Reason:**

Based on the financial envelope, this is a key decision which needs to be presented to full council.

### **Recommendations**

The purpose of this report is to set out the planned Adult Social Services and Housing commissioning priorities for the next 18 months 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 and Housing commissioning intentions for the next 18 months.
- 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 or commissioning 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 and Housing commissioning intentions and priorities for the coming 18 months and, where necessary, to seek approval to commence specific procurement activities or to extend contracts beyond their original term.

The commissioning intentions set out within this document are intended to support the delivery of the Adults Social Services and Housing priorities, whilst supporting commissioning intentions as part of the new Adult Social Services Commissioning

Strategy 2024 -2031. 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 a quality and standard that 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's Savings Plan.

## **2. Policy**

This commissioning intentions report supports the Corporate Plan ambitions, specifically:

- ✚ Our communities are caring, health and safe, where people help each other to live well.
- ✚ Our council delivers consistently good services and value for money to support our community.

The Corporate Plan acknowledges that within adults and communities the recognition that the council wants to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents, and that we will work with our NHS system, partners and voluntary, community and social enterprise sector partners to enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer.

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 individuals requiring services. We also intend to focus on support for informal carers to maintain their caring role, as well as the use of Technology Enabled Care (TEC), in 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 and Housing priorities for 2024/25.

Our commitments and priorities include:

- ✚ Work with people who have care and support needs and their carers, so they remain safe, supported and well.
- ✚ Work with our NHS system partners to enable people to stay well, safe, and independent at home for longer.
- ✚ Enable communities to develop personal and community resilience, and a proactive approach to their health and wellbeing.
- ✚ Enable people to maximise their independence, through a focus on empowering communities, information and advice, early intervention and technology enabled care.
- ✚ Ensure more good quality, energy efficient, affordable homes are available for residents to rent or buy through partnership working.
- ✚ Strengthen our collaboration and co-production with town and parish councils, the voluntary and the community sector to ensure we work together for the benefits of our residents.
- ✚ Achieve a positive outcome under the Care Quality Commission inspection framework, evidencing our strengths and development plans.
- ✚ Get better at how we communicate, inform, consult, engage and co-produce with our communities.

- ✚ Support a sustainable financial future for the council through innovation and transformation.
- ✚ Make the best use of our assets and other resources to deliver value for money.
- ✚ Strengthen our strategic partnerships to get the best for North Somerset, our residents, and communities.

This report also supports aspects of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, particularly in respect of:

- ✚ Prevention: prevent people from becoming unwell or experiencing poor health and wellbeing.
- ✚ Early intervention: support people to identify and manage health and wellbeing problems as early as possible.
- ✚ Thriving communities: focus on the wider factors and influences on health, and work with partners to support communities to thrive.

Additionally, this report supports the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The commissioning plan will increasingly reflect our joint ambitions with North Somerset's two NHS locality partnerships.

### **3. Details**

The 2024/25 commissioning intentions, 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 directorate include:

- ✚ Care Act 2014
- ✚ Housing Act 1996
- ✚ Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996
- ✚ Homeless Reduction Act 2017
- ✚ Accelerating Reform Fund
- ✚ Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund
- ✚ Better Care Fund
- ✚ Homeless Prevention Grant
- ✚ Health and Social Care Integration and the BNSSG Sustainable Transformation Plan
- ✚ Discharge to Assess
- ✚ Adult Social Care and Housing Commissioning Strategy 2024 - 2031
- ✚ The Corporate Plan 2024 - 2028
- ✚ North Somerset Housing Strategy 2022 – 2027
- ✚ Prevention Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 -2024
- ✚ Strategic Housing Services Enforcement Policy 2018
- ✚ Home Choice Policy 2023
- ✚ North Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2024
- ✚ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- ✚ Council Savings Plan

Any commissioning undertaken is supported by the Procurement Team.

The Contracts and Commissioning team is focused on developing an approach that is evidenced and needs led, person centred, 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 ASHH 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 intentions for 2024/25 have been developed in consultation with Adult Social Services Director, Assistant Director for Commissioning, Partnerships and Housing Solutions, and relevant Heads of Services, as well as the Procurement Team.

In addition, extensive consultation has been undertaken with the development of the Adult Social Care and Housing Commissioning Strategy which is fundamental to the annual commissioning intentions report. This has included, where appropriate, wider consultation across the wider BNSSG system and Integrated Locality Care Partnerships.

Furthermore, wider consultation and co-production of services is beginning to be developed with individuals in receipt of services, 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.

The Adult Services and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Panel were consulted on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

## **5. Financial Implications**

In consultation with the Principal Accountant for Adult Social Services, 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**

The costs associated for each individual contract are detailed in Appendices A and B

### **Funding**

N/A

## **6. Legal Powers and Implications**

The services considered in this commissioning intentions report meet our statutory requirements and as such are covered by the:

- ✚ Care Act 2014
- ✚ The Health and Care Act 2022
- ✚ Mental Capacity Act 2005
- ✚ Mental Health Act 1983, as amended in 2009
- ✚ The Housing Act 1996
- ✚ The Homeless Reduction Act 2017
- ✚ The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996
- ✚ 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. Consideration has also been given to the newly implemented Provider Selection Regime for the procurement of health care services and the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023, which takes effect from autumn 2024.

## **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 Teams, 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 intentions and 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 directorate and reducing duplication.

Further mitigation is supported as a thorough risk assessment will also be completed by the Procurement and Contracts and Commissioning Teams, 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 equality impact assessment 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 relevant 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. This has already been reflected in the development of the various strategies which have been key to the commissioning intentions outlined in this report.

## **11. Options Considered**

The nature of most of our activity within Adult Social Care and Housing is statutory and therefore an options appraisal will be undertaken as part of any commissioning activity to inform best practice and value, and most appropriate provision to achieve the desired service outcome. Where appropriate this will include Voluntary Community Social and Faith Enterprises, the wider BNSSG system and Integrated Locality Care Partnerships.

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**Owner:**

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**Appendices:**

ASC Commissioning and Procurement Plan Appendix A (New Activity)

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

**Background Papers:**

ASS Commissioning Strategy 2024 – 2031

ASS Commissioning Intentions plan 2023/24 agreed at the Executive meeting June 2023