

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 16th February 2023
REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adults
PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care
SUBJECT: Home Based Respite Care Service in Halton
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek a Waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv) of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders for the granting of a direct award to support the continuation of the provision of the Home Based Respite Care Service in Halton, to be delivered by Crossroads Care North West for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025, plus an option to extend for a further one-year period.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and
- 2) in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv), Executive Board approve a Waiver of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders, for a direct award to support the continuation of the provision of the Home Based Respite Care Service in Halton delivered by Crossroads Care North West for a two year period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025, plus an option to extend for a further one-year period.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Crossroads Care North West is currently commissioned, until 31st March 2023, to provide a planned Home Based Respite Care Service in Halton.

Home Based Respite care provides practical help, personal care and emotional support to people in their own homes, replacing the care normally provided by their informal carer and allowing that carer to have respite from their caring. The Service therefore supports carers and the cared for to help them remain independent for as long as possible.

The service aims to support both the carer and the cared for in enabling regular carers respite. This will allow carers to have time away from their role as informal carer, whilst maintaining a safe and consistent level of support to the individual.

3.2 Respite is often used as an umbrella term, referring to a broad spectrum of activities encompassing home based services. It is generally acknowledged that respite varies

according to its nature, circumstances of provision, who it is provided by, or to and when it is available. For the purposes of this contract the service:

- is for planned respite;
- offers flexibility in service provision and service delivery ;
- supports carers of people who live at home with a long-term condition that restricts their ability to get out of their home on their own;
- is delivered to Halton residents;
- is available to adults over 18; and
- is for any adult carer who is identified as having a need.

3.3 As well as being registered with the Care Quality Commission for the provision of personal care, to ensure that the service delivered is of the necessary quality, we have robust contract management arrangements in place, which consists of the quarterly provision of both quantitative and qualitative information and half-yearly monitoring meetings with the provider.

3.4 A waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv) of part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders is sought to award Crossroads Care North West a contract for a two-year period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025, plus an option to extend for a further one-year period.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Continuing this service supports the Council in its development of out of hospital services with NHS Cheshire & Merseyside and in respect to the One Halton placed based approach. It also supports our commitment to providing breaks for carers in line with local and national targets and to assist people to live in their own homes and remain independent for as long as possible.

4.2 As well as providing high quality care support services, Crossroads are able to offer additional support through their expertise and experience of supporting Carers. In the past they have also been able to support Carers and families in the Halton area, who have been suffering financial hardship. Most recently in December 2022, they provided free food hampers to the most vulnerable clients and all their care support staff were issued with a £25 gift voucher.

Crossroads use asset based approaches, maximising use of community space wherever possible such as room hire for recruitment and training. This not only generates income for these organisations but also raises awareness of other services, which could benefit staff, volunteers and service users.

Crossroads Care North West are committed to recruiting locally, raising the living standards of local residents through employing a local workforce.

4.3 Retendering this contract could result in the Council foregoing a clear benefit in developing out of hospital services with NHS Cheshire & Merseyside and may result in the Council awarding the contract to another provider, which would result in a risk to continuity of care and support to a vulnerable client group. It is preferred to remain with the existing provider to continue to achieve positive outcomes for the existing

client base, and new clients, through well-established relationships that they have with health, social care and the local voluntary and community sector.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Waiver in compliance with Standing Order 1.14.4 of part 3: Non-Emergency Procedures (exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) on the basis that a full tender process would result in the Council having to forego a clear financial or commercial benefit (1.14.4 iv).

5.2 Awarding a contract to the existing provider would support continuity of care for a vulnerable client cohort.

5.3 The waiver would be effective for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025, plus option to extend for a further one year.

5.4 The total financial cost to the pooled budget is £113,929 per annum; total contract value over the two-year term is £227,858; £341,787 including the option to extend for a further one year.

The cost of this contract will be met within existing Better Care Fund budget allocations and be subject to an inflationary uplift which will not increase the cost of the contract but will be met via revising the hours of respite care being delivered over the contract period.

5.5 Home Based Respite Care is usually provided on a regular weekly basis for between 1 - 4 hours. The actual amount of hours that are delivered to an individual will be based on need. This figure will be determined as part of the development of the individuals care plan, this can be completed through an agreed assessment and may be required at evenings/weekends and in some circumstances may require sleeping/waking nights.

Based on the contract value, during 2023/4 there would be expectation that Crossroads would provide 5,696 hours of respite.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

N/A

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

N/A

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

This service makes an important contribution to the health and social care system in Halton.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

N/A

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 This contract falls below the current EU Light Touch Regime threshold of £663,540 and subsequently the risk of challenge will be negligible.

7.2 The Service will continue to be monitored to ensure that the Council, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside and Halton residents receive value for money.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no environmental or climate implications as a result of this report.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

10.1 None identified.