

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 13 March 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adults

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Dementia Advisor Service – Alzheimer’s Society

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the Dementia Advisor Service in Halton, contracted with Alzheimer’s Society, and consider contract renewal, through a direct award, for a further 12 months following the current contract end date.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) Note the contents of the report; and**
- 2) Approve a Waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 iv of part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders, for a direct award to support the continuation of the provision of the Dementia Advisor Service in Halton delivered through contract with Alzheimer’s Society for the period from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 Adult Social Care commission Alzheimer’s Society to provide a community support service across Halton to those pre and post dementia diagnosis, and their carers. This service was developed in 2016 and was further reviewed in 2019 to become an invaluable resource, forming the Dementia Connect Service currently delivered today.

3.1.2 Dementia Connect is a model replicated across the Country offering referrals to community-based Dementia Advisors who provide personalised one-to-one support, practical advice (including dementia specific legal and financial advice and signposting),

information and signposting to other local support, regular social events in both Runcorn and Widnes for those with dementia diagnoses and their carers, regular 'keep in touch' calls and contact, and support with advanced care planning.

- 3.1.3 The service dovetails health services to provide a community-based pathway of support, often meeting the needs of those coming to terms with new diagnoses in a timely manner. The service impacts positively on the Council's statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 to provide information and advice to empower people to make informed decision about their care options. It also meets the outcomes of a number of NICE guideline recommendations including those set out in *NG97 'Dementia: assessment, management and support for people living with dementia and their carers'*
- 3.1.4 Alzheimer's Society works closely with the Council to understand local needs and played a key role in engagement with residents towards development of the '*Living Well with dementia in Halton: One Halton Dementia Delivery Plan 2023-2028*'. Alzheimer's Society is also a significant delivery partner in achieving the outcomes of the Plan.
- 3.1.5 As the largest dementia charity in the UK, Alzheimer's Society have a unique understanding of the issue facing those with dementia symptoms and diagnoses. They also offer a wide ranging infrastructure to be able to give specialist advice, information and resources that provide added value to the Halton contract.
- 3.1.6 Performance figures covering the first three quarters of 2024/25 are given at Appendix One, including two case studies looking at support offered.

3.2 **Service contract**

- 3.2.1 The current contract was issued on 1st April 2024 and ran for 12 months. A further 12-month contract is recommended to run from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The year-on-year contracting is in recognition of the Council's financial position.
- 3.2.2 The current contract value is £77,173 per annum, remaining unchanged since 2023. A waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 iv of part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders would be required to cover the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The service forms part of the Adult Social Care offer of provision and meets statutory requirements in relation to the Care Act 2014. It impacts on the Council's duty to offer information and advice and

also supports carers.

- 4.2 Alzheimer's Society have a long-standing relationship with the Council, offering added-value in relation to their association with the national branding and campaigns.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 iv of part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders would be needed to cover a contract spanning the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The value of the contract would be £77,173.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

The contract enables Alzheimer's Society to work with those who have dementia symptoms and are seeking diagnosis as well as those diagnosed with dementia, together with their carers. The support, information, advice and signposting available to these people is well-received and keeps them well for longer in the community.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

The service prevents and delays the need for social care support, reducing the reliance on public services.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

No direct impact.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

This service makes an important contribution to the health and social care system in Halton, supporting people at times of vulnerability.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

No direct impact

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

The service is based in the community and supports people to access community facilities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Losing the service would impact on both social care and health services as people would be at risk of needing more complex interventions.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The service is designed to meet the needs of those pre and post dementia diagnosis, and their carers. It is offered as a free to access service.

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 under the meaning of the Act.'