

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 02 November 2021

TITLE	Recommissioning of Carers Support Services		
Ward(s)	All Wards		
Author: Sonia Davies	Job title: Strategic Commissioning Manager		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Helen Holland, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Integrated Care System	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans, Executive Director, People		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: To seek approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To recommission a new Carers Support service contract necessary to meet the statutory duties outlined below for adult carers and young adult carers. The contract will be for a 3 year + 2 duration, on behalf of Bristol City Council and Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. To note <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The strategic principles for an all-ages carers’ strategy has been approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board on 28/07/2021. 			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bristol City Council has a statutory duty to offer carers assessments to people in the city who support family members and friends on an unpaid basis, and to offer them sufficient support to continue to meet their caring duties. It is currently estimated that there are circa 48,000 unpaid carers in Bristol, although this number is expected to be higher as a direct result of the Pandemic. As a result of the recent COVID-19 vaccination programme, circa 17,000 carers are known to services in Bristol, meaning that there are in excess of 31,000 unknown “hidden” carers in the City. 2. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the level of pressure on carers, leading to an increase in carer breakdown and a subsequent increase in demand for support from Adult Social Care and Health Services. It is anticipated, without appropriate relevant interventions and low-level support available to carers, that this demand will continue to increase and place additional financial pressures on statutory services. A key focus of new contracts will be to identify and support carers, including ‘hidden’ carers, at an earlier stage in their caring role, to mitigate against carer breakdown. 3. It is a possibility that the current budget envelope may not be sufficient to meet this increased demand over the lifetime of the contract, although at the time of producing this report it is too early to be certain of the scale of this. As data and evidence grows, if there is an identified need, it is possible that additional funding will be sought to bolster the budget envelope for these contracts. A range of sources for this would be considered if necessary, including from key partners. 4. Bristol currently holds contracts on behalf of both Bristol City Council and Bristol, North Somerset and South 			

Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG) to deliver information, advice and support to carers. These contracts have been extended due to the pandemic, but in order to retain compliance with procurement regulations, need to be re-tendered. See Table below:

	Current contracts / Service Agreements (all commenced in 2014)	Provider	Contract extension end date
1	Carers' Advice, Support & Information Services	The Carers' Support Centre	30/06/22
2	Parent carers Advice, Support & Support services	The Carers' Support Centre	30/06/22
3	Information, Advice & Support for Chinese Carers	Bristol and Avon Chinese Women's Group	30/06/22
4	Information, Advice & Support for Black (African-Caribbean) Carers	Bristol Black Carers	30/06/22

Cabinet Member Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the recommissioning of new Carers Support service contract(s) on behalf of Bristol City Council and BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group, for 3 years plus 2 from 1st July 2022 at a cost of up to £2,436,425.
2. Authorises the Executive Director – People in consultation with the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Integrated Care System to take all steps required to procure and award the contract(s), in line with the procurement routes and maximum budget envelopes outlined in this report.
3. Authorises the Executive Director – People in consultation with the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Integrated Care System to invoke any subsequent extensions / variations specifically defined in the contract(s) being awarded, up to the maximum budget envelope outlined in this report.
4. Authorises the Executive Director – People in consultation with the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Integrated Care System to authorise any contract value increase between 10-50% over the life of the contract up to £1,218,213 subject to availability of funding.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. Empowering and Caring: Provide 'help to help yourself' and 'help when you need it' through a sustainable, safe and diverse system of social care and safeguarding provision, with a focus on early help and intervention.
2. Well Connected: Reduce social and economic isolation and help connect people to people, people to jobs and people to opportunity.
3. Wellbeing: Embed health in all our policies to improve physical & mental health and wellbeing, reducing inequalities and the demand for acute services.

City Benefits:

1. Carers provide a significant level of unpaid care to vulnerable children and adults in the city. Carers ensure that people are supported in their own environments, which enables people to remain as independent as possible and with minimal interference from statutory agencies. This improves the quality of life of vulnerable adults significantly.
2. The recommissioning of carers support services will focus support to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, to provide sustainable long-term support to carers that is targeted, available when needed, and easily accessible.

Consultation Details:

1. Public consultation was carried out in Autumn / Winter 2019/20. The Covid-19 Pandemic delayed progress, however engagement meetings with key stakeholders continued in late 2020 and early 2021.
2. Stakeholders included carers, current providers, key partner agencies, and a range of VCSE organisations, including BAME-led community groups across the city. These groups developed and agreed the strategic priorities for Bristol and confirmed support of the public consultation findings.
3. A full report of this consultation is included in Appendix B.

Background Documents:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> HWBB - carers strategic principles - the carers strategic priorities that were endorsed by the Health & Wellbeing Board on 28th July 2021. Care Act, Section 20. Care Act 2014 (legislation.gov.uk)

Revenue Cost	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> £279,680 p.a. £207,605 p.a. 	Source of Revenue Funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> General Fund – budget 12061 Pooled S75 budget (joint with BNSSG CCG) – budget 12096
Capital Cost	£nil	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: This report seeks approval to recommission the Carers Support service on behalf of the Council and BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), at a cost of £487,285 per annum, with a five year expected cost of c£2.4m. An agreement is in place with the CCG to fund carers services as part of the Better Care Fund S75 agreement. On this basis there are no additional financial implications from recommissioning this service. Should there be any future need to vary the contract amount then this would need to be agreed with our CCG partners.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt 14th October 2021

2. Legal Advice: The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor 18 October 2021

3. Implications on IT: No anticipated impact on IT/Digital Services

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver 25th August 2021

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking the recommissioning of a Carers Support service and there are no significant HR implications for Bristol City Council employees arising from this proposal.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing 26 August 2021

EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans	01/09/21
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Helen Holland	06/09/21
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor	05/10/21

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	YES
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	No
Appendix J – HR advice	NO

Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO