

# Decision Pathway – Report



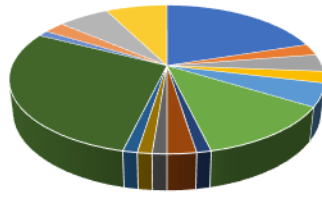
**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 18 January 2022

<b>TITLE</b>	South West ADASS Regional Framework Contract for bed-based placements for people with Learning Difficulties and Autism.												
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All												
<b>Authors:</b> Lucia Dorrington Jonathan Wright	<b>Job title:</b> Deputy Director – Commissioning Adult Social Care Commissioning Manager, Adult Social Care												
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Helen Holland	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Hugh Evans												
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff													
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet													
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>  To seek approval to use the new South West ADASS Regional Framework for Residential Out of Area Placements for people with Learning Difficulties.													
<b>Evidence Base:</b>  BCC currently commissions 794 residential placements for adults with a long-term condition (AWLTC). 39.2% (318) of these placements have a primary support need of learning difficulty. The current average cost of these placements is £1,652 per week.  Of those 318 placements, 180 are placed outside of the Bristol and 80 outside of the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) area.													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>Number of placements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>North Somerset</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Gloucestershire</td> <td>73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bath and North East Somerset</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Out of Area</td> <td>64</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Area	Number of placements	North Somerset	27	South Gloucestershire	73	Bath and North East Somerset	16	Out of Area	64
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<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of placements</b>												
Within SW ADASS area	59												
Outside ADASS area (out of scope)	21												

## OOA LD Residential Placements



■ BANES	■ Carmarthenshire	■ Devon	■ Dorset
■ Glamorgan	■ Gloucestershire	■ Hampshire	■ Herefordshire
■ Lanarkshire	■ Lincolnshire	■ Rhondda	■ Somerset
■ Staffordshire	■ Warwickshire	■ Wiltshire	■ Worcestershire

It is against this background and similar situations across the region that the South West branch of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) commenced work to have a better understanding of the bed-based care market for LD placements in the South West, and a better consolidated approach to commissioning, contracting and quality assurance of these critical services.

SW ADASS commissioned support from Alder to analyse all the care home and supported living placements for people with learning difficulties. The general pattern across the South West, as highlighted in BCC data, is that there are an increasing number of these care home placements across the region and costs have increased above the rate of inflation. Although some local authorities did report that they are making fewer LD residential care placements in favour of more Supported Living placements and are placing as close to home as possible.

This research determined the following points:

- There is a total annual Local Authority spend across the South West of £245m on these placements (Oct 2018 figures)
- In 2018, there were 3,363 residential LD placements across the SW region
- In 2016 Alder identified that the region has approx. 8,921 beds across 865 locations which are registered to provide personal or nursing care to people under 65 with a learning disability. The region is purchasing 3,511 or 39% of these beds in 682 locations. These exclude out of region placements
- There are circa 700 placements outside of the South West

On the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 South Gloucestershire Council started working on the LD residential project on behalf of SW ADASS. The project was to set up a regional contract for purchasing residential care for adults with learning difficulties within the South West region. The project objectives were to:

- Establish a joint Framework for commissioning and procuring LD residential care placements with a single accreditation process
- This Framework will be for complex and high-cost placements
- Develop a consistent regional process for purchasing residential care for adults with complex learning difficulties
- Development of an approach to determining price
- To standardise the form of contract used by commissioners for LD Residential and Nursing placements.
- To improve Quality Assurance processes.
- Have a centrally accessible record of placements (anonymised but with placing authorities known)

The project sponsors included N. Somerset, Swindon, Devon, Bournemouth Christchurch, and Poole (BCP) and Cornwall. The project lead and resource came from South Glos. The working group was comprised of representatives

of the following Local Authorities.

Bristol	Somerset	Plymouth	BANES	Swindon
BCP	Devon	Dorset	Torbay	North Somerset
South Glos.	Wiltshire	Isle of Wight	Cornwall	Gloucestershire

The project developed key principles and works in the following way.

**Provider Accreditation.** Providers apply to join the Framework via a single accreditation process. They will be required to complete a supplier selection questionnaire which enables checks to be carried out on the quality of the service they provide and to ensure they are financially stable. South Gloucestershire Council (as host authority) and representatives from other authorities will carry out the accreditation process to ensure consistency of approach. Providers will be able to list all their homes under one contract which means they will only have to apply once unless they wish to add more homes to their contract. Once accredited, a list of providers and their homes will be issued to all participating local authorities.

**Monitoring Visits.** The placing LA will allocate monitoring visits to host LAs via an agreed process within the agreement. Host LAs will carry out the monitoring visit on behalf of all signed up LA. Visits completed using standard QA forms so that all care homes are monitored in the same way. The host LA's will then link in with all LA Safeguarding teams that have placements in the care home they are monitoring with outcomes uploaded to shared data base.

**Standardising Fees.** Providers will submit costs for each care home they are registering under the framework. The fixed costs which is made up of non-care costs and shared costs and then a variable cost which is an hourly rate for 1:1, 2:1 as identified in an individual's support plan.

As part of the working group, there has been a significant read-across from the current BCC residential framework in terms of the specification, cost methodology and quality assurance processes.

**It is proposed that BCC will only utilise this framework for out of area placements allowing consistency of contract application across the region.** This will also allow the flexibility to continue to develop the local market for which BCC holds a statutory duty under the Care Act.

This will tie into the current recommissioning of ASC framework contracts and application of a consistent cost methodology whilst maintaining some alignment within the region. It also has the added benefit of reducing the need and likelihood for off contract spend.

The contract went out to tender in early November and will be advertised for 28 days before the first-round evaluations. BCC Adult Social Care is therefore seeking permission from Cabinet to use this framework as required.

#### **Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Approves Bristol City Council's use of the South West Regional LD Residential Framework for any placements made outside of Bristol within the South West for four years plus two one-year extensions, and for a maximum value of £5,622,240 (£1,405,560 a year). This Framework comes with no commitment to spend with any provider or to spend at all if placements aren't required.
2. Authorises the Executive Director of People in consultation with the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care to take all steps required to implement the use of the framework where necessary to meet the demand of Bristol residents, when appropriate to do so.

#### **Corporate Strategy alignment:**

The proposed service specification that forms part of the Framework is aligned to the proposed corporate vision (as articulated in the draft Corporate Strategy 2022-27) to “play a leading role in driving an inclusive, sustainable and healthy city of hope and aspiration, one where everyone can share in its success” and aligns to the current strategic aims to be `Empowering and caring` and `Fair and inclusive`.

**City Benefits:**

This proposal should drive better outcomes for users of these services as the quality checks on providers will be more consistent across Local Authorities and the combined Framework should improve value for money for SW local authorities commissioning such placements.

**Consultation Details:**

During the summer of 2019, ADASS held two consultation events for providers that were attended by 4/5 of Bristol’s biggest residential providers including Milestones, Priory, Freeways, Brandon Trust. An online questionnaire was also conducted.

**Background Documents:** [BCC Corporate Strategy](#)  
[Care Act 2014](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£5,622,240	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	General Fund
<b>Capital Cost</b>	£	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

**1. Finance Advice:** This report seeks approval to use the new South West ADASS Regional Framework for Care Home Out of Area Placements, for people with Learning Disabilities for a period of four years at a total estimated cost of c£5.62m, with a potential further extension for two years. Whilst the framework does not commit us to any additional expenditure, it is anticipated that financial benefits may potentially be realised from its use.

**Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt 3 December 2021**

**2. Legal Advice:** The use of the South West ADASS Regional Framework does not raise any specific legal issues. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the contractual arrangements.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Leader/Solicitor 7 December 2021

**3. Implications on IT:** No implications on IT in regards to this activity.

**IT Team Leader:** Gavin Arbuckle 10/12/21

**4. HR Advice:** The report is seeking approval to use the new South West ADASS Regional Framework for Residential Out of Area Placements for people with Learning Disabilities. There are no HR implications arising from this for Bristol City Council employees.

**HR Partner: Lorna Laing 3 December 2021**

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Hugh Evans	1 December 2021
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Councillor Helen Holland	1 December 2021
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off</b>	Mayor’s Office	20 December 2021

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>

<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>