

Executive Decision Making by an Officer with Delegated Powers

Decision to be taken by: Sarah Scott – Executive Director for Adult Social Care, Wellbeing & Communities

Pursuant to an Authorisation from: Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet, 22nd September 2021:

That Cabinet delegates authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning to:

- a) Conduct a compliant tender process for the award of a three year (with provision for an optional two-year extension) move-on and enablement service for young people with mild/moderate learning disabilities (LD) in the Stroud locality.
- b) Upon conclusion of the tender process, award and enter into contract with the provider who has been evaluated as achieving the highest requisite score against the relevant evaluation criteria, as set by the Council.
- c) Determine whether to exercise the option to extend the contract for a further period of not more than two years on expiry of the initial three-year term.

Report title: Recommissioning of a Move-on and Enablement Service for Young People with Learning Disabilities in Stroud

The decision	<p>Following the conclusion of the above-mentioned procurement process and having consulted with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning, in accordance with the Cabinet decision of 22nd September 2021, it is the decision to award a contract for the supply of a Move On and Enablement Service for Young People with Disabilities in Stroud to Action for Children.</p> <p>The proposed contract shall continue for an initial period of 3 years and include an option to extend its term for a further period of not more than 2 years.</p>
Background documents	<p>Cabinet Decision – 22nd September 2021</p> <p>AGENDA NO: (gloucestershire.gov.uk)</p>
Reasons for the decision	<p>This decision will secure the ongoing delivery of a move on and enablement service in the Stroud locality.</p> <p>The service supports young people with a mild to moderate disability who have the potential to live independently but need a period of accommodation-based enablement support.</p>

	<p>There is a demonstrable need for this type of service in the county.</p> <p>The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) for people with Learning Disabilities and Autism highlights:</p> <p>2.16% of adults and 2.5% of children in the UK are believed to have a learning disability.</p> <p>The percentage of adults with a LD is predicted to rise by 12.3% between 2018 and 2035.</p> <p>Approximately 11,746 adults in Gloucestershire have a learning disability, with the majority (approximately 79.47%) of these people experiencing a mild/moderate LD.</p> <p>There are 1,451 children aged between 7-15 identified in schools with learning disabilities and/or Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASC).</p> <p>The largest group (43.07%) within those 1,451 children are defined as MLD (Mild/Moderate Learning Disability)</p> <p>The current service model provides for those who have eligible adult social care needs upon entry. Evidence shows that in most cases individuals go on to live independently with no, or very minimal, long term paid support.</p>
<p>Resource implications</p>	<p>The value of the service is £751,295 over the potential five-year contract period.</p> <p>Funding is available from within existing budgets. There will be no additional impact on the current level of spend as a result of the decision set out in this report.</p> <p>Project management and support resources will be provided from within existing support teams.</p>
<p>Who has been consulted?</p>	<p>For this decision consultation has taken place with:</p> <p>GCC Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning Director of Integration – GCC & ICB</p> <p>Head of Integrated Commissioning for Learning & Physical Disabilities – GCC & ICB</p> <p>Integrated Social Care Manager (LD) - GCC</p> <p>Integrated Social Care Manager (Stroud) - GCC</p> <p>A group including representatives from Strategic Procurement, Legal Services, ICT, IMS, Finance, HR and Experts by Experience have all worked alongside Disabilities Commissioning to support the tendering process.</p>
<p>What were their comments?</p>	

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning has been able to read and consider this report and has confirmed agreement to proceed with the decision to award.

Budget holders have also confirmed their agreement to the decision.

Action for Children's response to tender has been thoroughly reviewed by all the appropriate council support services and scored against award criteria set out in the Invitation to Tender. This process, including additional clarifications by the relevant specialist support services, has determined that the service offered meets GCC's requirements.

Background/Context

1. The provision is a move-on and enablement service for young people with mild to moderate learning disabilities has been available in Stroud for over 15 years.

2. The service began with funding made available by Supporting People (Transitional Housing Benefit), later transitioning contractual responsibility to CYP Education and finally in 2019 to Adults Disabilities Commissioning, where it continues to be funded outside of traditional external care arrangements due to its bespoke nature.

3. The service will provide accommodation for up to eight young people for a length of stay for up to two years. Individuals must be between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four and have a mild/moderate disability with the future potential to live independently in order to be eligible for the service. In extraordinary circumstances 16 and 17 year-olds will be considered eligible. Priority is given to those who have connection to the Stroud area but this is not a requirement.

4. The support delivered at the service includes:

- A licence agreement and support to maintain it
- Person-centred planning that focuses on finding out what is important to each young person
- Support with budgeting and benefits
- Support with paperwork
- Advice on staying safe
- Mental health & wellbeing support
- Support with finding work
- Support with finding accommodation
- Support with practical skills such as travel, cooking and cleaning
- Transition support following move on (up to 5 hours per week for 6 months).

This service enables young people to achieve their full potential. A person-centred approach is used ensuring the voice of the individual is at the centre of any plans that are made and goals that are set.

The service aims to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge to be able to live independently, with no or very little long-term paid support – supporting the local and national agenda for early, effective preventative support.

5. There is a well-established partnership between GCC, the service provider and Stroud District Council which enables the young people accessing the service to be allocated to a local authority at the point that they are ready to move on. It is this crucial element of ensuring that young people are given the necessary 'Gold Band' Homeseeker status, which ensures a continual throughput in the service and the successful and safe transition for young people into their own home. Currently Stroud is the only district where this type of agreement is in place, although there is potential for this to be replicated with other localities.

6. In line with the provisions of both the Children and Families Act and Care Act, which focus on outcomes, personalisation and wellbeing, this service focuses on community-based preventative support that will avoid crises and help support people to be active members of the community.

Alternative options considered and why they were rejected

Option 1: De-commission.

This option is not recommended as it would result in the service having to close and 7 individuals with support needs being made homeless. There is little capacity within existing supported living services in the Stroud area and it is likely this would be at an additional cost. The local housing department would not be able to provide accommodation for these individuals at short notice, nor would they be ready for independent living at this stage. Emergency accommodation would place them at significant risk. The individuals who would have accessed this service would have a higher level of need and require more ongoing support from Adult Social Care.

Option 2: Transition this service onto the existing Health and Social Care Framework contract.

This option has been considered and is not recommended due to the bespoke delivery and cost model, the specification of the framework would not support this service appropriately.

Risk Analysis

Action for Children are the incumbent provider of the service so there will be no TUPE process to navigate prior to the new contract start date. A substantial mobilisation period was planned for in the event of a new provider being successful at tender stage, this period will amply allow for all the necessary planning to take place to ensure a smooth start to the new contract term.

Equalities considerations

Signed EIA can be found here:

[Equality Impact Assessment EIA KF Aug 2021 V4 - SIGNED FINAL.pdf](#)
(gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been completed? Yes

Has any conflict of interest been declared by any Cabinet Member consulted on the decision?

The council's Monitoring Officer should be consulted, in the first instance, if any conflict of interest is declared by a Cabinet Member.

If any conflict of interest declared, was a dispensation granted by the Audit and Governance Committee of the Council?

No

Date of dispensation:

Does this decision report form or any supporting papers provided contain confidential or exempt information?

(Refer to Democratic Services Unit for advice if necessary)

No

If Yes, please provide details of document(s) that are confidential or exempt

Does this decision need to be published on the GCC website?

Yes

In coming to this decision I have given due and full regard to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act") by reference to the law itself and also the relevant Equality Impact Assessment, which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Having fully considered all available information, I have decided to reject any alternative options and take the recommended decision(s), for the reasons set out in this report.



Signed

Sarah Scott – Executive Director for Adult Social Care, Wellbeing & Communities

(The former title of the post of Executive Director for Adult Social Care, Wellbeing & Communities was the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Public health, the post title changed in July 2022)

Date: 12.7.22

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