



**Report title: Extension of existing contracts for Gloucestershire Adult and Young Carers Support**

<b>Cabinet Date</b>	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2023
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Stephan Fifield, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery</li><li>• Cllr Carole Allaway-Martin, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning</li><li>• Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Early Years</li></ul>
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<p>To seek Cabinet approval to exercise a 2-year extension option commencing 1st April 2024 under:</p> <p>(a) the council’s contract with PeoplePlus Limited for the provision of support for Adult Carers and</p> <p>(b) the council’s contract with Gloucestershire Young Carers for the provision of support for Children and Young Adult Carers,</p> <p>These services are jointly funded and commissioned by Gloucestershire County Council and Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board for Adult Carers and Young Carers.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p>That Cabinet approves the exercise of a 2-year extension option commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 under:</p> <p>(a) the council’s contract with PeoplePlus Limited for the provision of support for Adult Carers which commenced in April 2019; and</p> <p>(b) the council’s contract with Gloucestershire Young Carers for the provision of support for Children and Young Adult Carers which also commenced in April 2019,</p> <p>Such extensions shall be effected in accordance with the extension option provisions of the original contracts.</p>

<p><b>Reasons for recommendations</b></p>	<p>There is a legislative requirement to assess and support carers as set out within the Care Act (2014) and the Children and Families Act (2014).</p> <p>The option to extend the contracts for two years beyond the initial contracting period was written into the original contracts with <b>PeoplePlus Limited</b> and <b>Gloucestershire Young Carers</b>. The extension period was to make both contracts attractive to the open market at the time of commissioning. Following review of both services, we consider the providers to be effective in the delivery of their respective services and, subject to agreement from all parties, would like to invoke this extension period to commence 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 inclusive. This would ensure consistent support for 9.5k carers currently supported by both providers inclusive.</p>
<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>	<p>Carers Support is jointly funded by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and Gloucestershire's Integrated Care Board (GICB) formerly Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)).</p> <p>The proposed estimated financial envelope per year for the contract is as follows:</p> <p>Adult Carers - £1.77m Young Carers - £380k</p> <p>thus, the combined value of the proposed extension across both contracts would be circa £4.3m. The combined value of the original contracts was circa £15.1 million <b>including the cost of this two-year extension</b> (total 7 years, 5+2). The council shall provide 56% of such funding and GICB shall provide the remaining 44%.</p>

<b>Background Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cabinet Decision (18/07/2018): <a href="#">Procurement of the new carers contracts</a></li> <li>• Officer Decision (28/11/2018): <a href="#">To award the contract for Carers Support for Lot 1 Adult Carers and Lot 2 Young Carers</a></li> <li>• The Carers Action Plan 2018 – 2020 <a href="#">Carers action plan 2018 to 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>• The Young Carers (Needs Assessments) Regulations 2015</li> <li>• The Care Act 2014 <a href="#">Care Act 2014 (legislation.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>• NHS Long Term Plan <a href="#">NHS Long Term Plan</a></li> </ul>
<b>Statutory Authority</b>	<p>Regulation 72(1)(a) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 - which permits contract modifications/extensions that have been provided for in the original contract in clear, precise and unequivocal review clauses.</p> <p>Section 507B of the Education and Inspections Act 2006</p> <p>The Children Act 1989</p> <p>Care Act 2014</p>
<b>Divisional Councillor(s)</b>	<p>All</p>
<b>Officer</b>	<p><b>Adult Carers</b>  Name: Jenny Cooper  Telephone: 07770 758 659  Email: <a href="mailto:jenny.cooper7@nhs.net">jenny.cooper7@nhs.net</a></p> <p><b>Young Carers</b>  Name: Verona Crossfield  Telephone: 07917 113 149  Email: <a href="mailto:verona.crossfield@gloucestershire.gov.uk">verona.crossfield@gloucestershire.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Timeline</b>	<p>If approved:</p> <p>31 July 2023: Notification of contract extensions to providers</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> April 2024: 2-year extension period commences</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> March 2026: Extensions end</p>

## Background

1. The Census 2021 indicates there are 52k unpaid carers in Gloucestershire, with numbers set to increase as place-based community support becomes the preferred option to institutional care and the aging population increases the number of people requiring care and support. PeoplePlus Ltd, locally known as Gloucestershire Carers Hub (GCH) and Gloucestershire Young Carers (GYC) have supported over 9.5k carers across Gloucestershire over the last four years, building strong networks within the communities they support.
2. The GCH and GYC have been a reliable and consistent support to carers over the last four years.
  - a. Increasing the identification and recognition of carers,
  - b. Ensuring all carers have a voice,
  - c. Raising the awareness of the caring role,
  - d. Providing the right support at right time,
  - e. Adopting a flexible approach.
3. Both organisations submit monitoring reports, including KPIs to commissioners each quarter and are actively involved in the monitoring review meetings. Both organisations are performing well and are flexible in the support offer to carers, primarily based on carer feedback and needs. GCH are reaching over 200 new carers per month. Both organisations submit carer feedback and case study examples of the positive impact the services have had for carers.
4. These Carers Support Contracts are due to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Both contracts have the option to extend for a further two years, and we are required to give notice of our intention to extend to PeoplePlus Limited and Gloucestershire Young Carers prior to August 2023. As shown above, these contracts have proven to be effective and offer flexible support for carers in Gloucestershire, and thus we would like to extend both contracts in order to provide the Council with sufficient to complete an assessment of budgets and statutory duties for Carers and retender a new carers contract.
5. A contract extension will continue the successful work both providers are providing carers and enable the Council and partners to respond strategically to challenges facing Young and Adult Carers, and the increased demand on services because of the pandemic and economic downturn.

## Options

6. **Option 1: Invoke the option to extend the terms of each of the contracts described in the Recommendations section of this report for the maximum period of two years, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.** A 2-year extension to the term of the current contracts with the existing providers would offer the continued delivery of statutory duties and ensure carers receive on-going, consistent support from effective services. This would also allow the Council a sufficient period to

complete a fully comprehensive and competitive tender process in respect of replacement contracts (if appropriate).

7. **Option 2: Extend the terms of each of the contracts described in the Recommendations section of this report for a period of one year, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.** The current contracts state an extension would be for a further period of two years, hence a one-year extension is not permissible under its terms. Moreover, this time frame would not allow for a comprehensive procurement of a new service provider in any event.
8. **Option 3: Allow each of the contracts described in the Recommendations section of this report to expire at the end of the initial contract period (i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024) and not extend its term.** This would require the council to immediately begin a tender process in respect of replacement contracts (if appropriate) and may result in a disruption to a statutory service if we were unable to effectively procure a replacement provider. Both current providers, **PeoplePlus Limited** and **Gloucestershire Young Carers** are valued GCC partners. They are proficient in the service they provide, and they also engage with the respective commissioning teams in a professional manner. All KPIs and agreed outcomes are on track or exceeding required standards.
9. **Option 1 is the preferred option because:** it ensures continuity of service for individuals for the additional two years, and the length of time to enable a fair, economic and competitive procurement process.

## Risks

10. There would be no risks arising from our recommended course of action, however there will be more risks for not extending the contracts. If we were to proceed with establishing a project team including all support services and relevant stakeholders, engage in robust market engagement with the carer community and prospective bidders, go out to tender for a period of time, then assess, moderate and engage in prospective provider presentations, we would not have enough time to ensure that the entire commissioning process is fully completed prior to the end of the original term of the contract; March 2024.

## Financial implications

11. The value of the proposed 2-year contract extension commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 is circa £4.3m, this will be met from existing budgets.

## Climate change implications

12. Not affected

## Equality implications

Has an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) been completed? Yes

13. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed. The service will continue to work inclusively with all carers regardless of their age, sex and disability and will

continue to employ only staff who have a passion for supporting people with caring responsibilities. All support services and representatives from Children's and Adults social Care have been consulted on the proposal to extend the service with the current Providers.

Cabinet Members should read and consider the Equalities Impact Assessment in order to satisfy themselves as decision makers that due regard has been given.

#### **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) implications**

14. Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) for each Provider are in the process of being established for sign-off internally by the Information Management Service. The completed DPIAs will be shared with the Providers as part of the contract extension documentation.

#### **Social value implications**

15. Officers continue to collaborate with the incumbent providers (**People Plus Limited** and **Gloucestershire Young Carers**) on the Social Values contained within the original contract to improve the economic, social and environmental well being within the services and support they offer.

#### **Consultation feedback**

16. Engagement is embedded within the regular review with both organisations. Commissioners listen to the voice of the carer from feedback and case studies to understand their feelings and amplify their experiences.
17. Market engagement will take place during the extension period and will help with our commissioning intentions.

#### **Officer recommendations:**

That Cabinet approves the proposals set out in the above Recommendations.

#### **Performance Management/Follow-up**

18. Current performance management arrangements will continue to apply throughout the extension period. This includes quarterly monitoring to ensure the services provided remain effective and in accordance with the contracting arrangements.