

Executive Decision Making by an Officer with Delegated Powers

Decision to be taken by: Sarah Scott, Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Wellbeing and Communities

Pursuant to an Authorisation from Cabinet (19/07/2023):
Recommissioning of a Mental Health Support and Advice Service which assists Adults with a Serious Mental Illness and/or Common Mental Condition

Report title: Supply of a Mental Health Support and Advice Service – Award of Contract

The decision	<p>Following the conclusion of a competitive tender process in respect of a contract for the supply of a Mental Health Support and Advice Service and having consulted with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning, in accordance with the Cabinet decision of 19 July 2023:</p> <p>DECISION</p> <p>to award a contract for the supply of Mental Health Support and Advice Service to the Rethink Mental Illness. The proposed contract shall continue for an initial period of 5 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 (19/07/2023): Recommissioning of a Mental Health Support and Advice Service which assists Adults with a Serious Mental Illness and/or Common Mental Condition</p>
Reasons for the decision	<p>The Council (GCC) has conducted a competitive procurement exercise for the award of this contract. Gloucestershire County Council published the opportunity via ProContract and issued a Find a Tender notice on 6th Oct 2023, for the purpose of procuring the services and works described in the tender documents.</p> <p>Tender documents were issued, and the Tender stage commenced on the 6th Oct 2023. The evaluation of the contract was based on Quality score (60% of the weighting), Price (25%) and Social Value (15%).</p> <p>Rethink Mental Illness were the highest scoring submission against all criteria and are recommended as the provider by the Project Team to award the contract for the Mental Health Support and Advice Service.</p>

<p>Resource implications</p>	<p>The contract value will be £700k per annum. The value of the intended service is £4.9m over the potential maximum seven-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 recommendations 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cllr Carole Allaway-Martin, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning ▪ Cllr Stephan Fifield, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery ▪ Internal Support Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legal Services ○ Strategic Procurement ○ Finance ○ Information Management Service
<p>What were their comments?</p> <p>Evaluation scoring and moderation has been led by Strategic Procurement, all parties were consulted and inputted to decision making for each scored section. All moderated scoring was collated and discussed, and the recommended provider established.</p> <p>Legal Services has supported the procurement with the preparation of a set of terms and conditions to form the basis of the new contract with the supplier and has been involved in process throughout. Legal Services is supportive of this decision to award the contract to the winning bidder</p> <p>Support for this decision has been received by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Carole Allaway-Martin, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Commissioning • Cllr Stephan Fifield, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Delivery <p>'I am pleased to support the process and outcome of the diligent work over a sustained period of time to enable such a positive outcome.</p> <p>The extensive engagement with individuals accessing the service provision, staff and volunteers, key stakeholders and partners, has served to enhance the understanding of local priorities for mental health support and to ensure the landscape of the service is sufficient to meet the identified needs.</p> <p>'Rethink Mental Illness' as the preferred contractor have demonstrated a clearly professional and considered delivery model, to enable individuals (Adults) with serious mental illness and common mental health conditions to live inclusively and have a meaningful role (as identified by them) within their communities.' – Cllr Carole Allaway-Martin.</p>	

Background/Context

The council has a statutory responsibility for ensuring that people with mental health needs are supported to live within their local communities; this responsibility is currently predominately undertaken by contracting with the Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (GHC) for a range of integrated mental health services. However, the Mental Health Support and Advice Service has a broader remit than those statutory services and allows for the provision of an Early Intervention & Prevention Service within all localities in Gloucestershire.

Inform Gloucestershire data highlights that “In 2020 an estimated 70,000 people aged 18-64 years in Gloucestershire have a common mental disorder, 12,300 have an antisocial personality disorder, 8,900 have a borderline personality disorder, and 2,600 have a psychotic disorder. An estimated 26,600 people aged 18-64 will have two or more psychiatric disorders. These numbers are predicted to show little change in the next ten years. However, the number of people seeking help from services and the number of diagnoses may increase as awareness of mental health conditions rises.”

To support the re-commissioning proposal for the Mental Health Support and Advice Service, a review of recent local research, insights and previously completed engagement on mental health workstreams and pathways has been conducted. This has further been enhanced with extensive engagement with individuals accessing the service provision, staff and volunteers working with the service, key stakeholders, and partners to understand local priorities for mental health support and to ensure the landscape of the service is sufficient to meet the identified needs.

The Service will enable Individuals (Adults) with serious mental illness and common mental health conditions to live inclusively and have a meaningful role (as identified by them) within their local communities.

The Service aims to:

- Increase community capacity by working alongside communities to enhance local community provision, bolstering networking links, and developing compassionate communities whilst actively working to reduce Mental Health stigma and increase accessibility for individuals with mental ill health.
- Reduce social isolation and loneliness through 1:1 Mental Health Link Working Support, Peer Support and access to personalised activities that support/maintain wellbeing.
- Enable Individuals to increase their resilience by equipping them with appropriate tools, information, and advice to ensure they can make informed choices about their care and support. This will lead to an increase in their ability to self-direct choices in the future.

- Facilitate a discharge and reablement pathway for adults who are being discharged from Gloucestershire's Acute Mental Health Wards or are at risk of being admitted through 1:1 Mental Health Link Working Support as part of the Discharge Hub pathway alongside Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust.
- Work in collaboration with stakeholders and strategic partner organisations to provide support towards an individual's personalised recovery journey by supporting improvements to mental health and wellbeing pathways.

Alternative options considered and why they were rejected

Decision not to award the contract.

The Mental Health Support and Advice Service is a valuable resource that supports the Mental Health and Wellbeing agenda within Gloucestershire.

Although not awarding and de-commissioning the service would create an initial saving it is likely to increase expenditure in other areas such as adult social care external care budget.

Evaluation of the current services, and engagement have confirmed the value and importance of the service from those with lived experience. By de-commissioning the service this would lead to a gap in resources and the potential deterioration in both mental and physical health for individuals who currently access the service and those who may wish to access this in the future.

Risk Analysis

Risk of legal challenge as a result of not providing services identified as required to people with mental health needs to be supported to live within their local communities and the impact if the service is not in place.

Risk mitigation: To award the contract to Rethink Mental Illness to ensure the provision of a Mental Health Support and Advice service is enabled on the basis of alternative options not being viable as stated above.

Risk mitigation: Rethink Mental Illness will be supported throughout the contract mobilisation period to ensure there is a smooth transition period into new contractual arrangements and there is no disruption to service delivery.

Risk mitigation: Continued use of a live project risk assessment and issues log.

Equalities considerations

An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for the Mental Health Support and Advice Service.

The Service is tailored to provide support and advice to individuals with a serious mental illness, common mental health condition either diagnosed or undiagnosed. Service delivery has been developed specifically to support this individual group due to their recognised vulnerability and need for tailored focus which is specific to people with a mental ill health.

Clear partnership working is stated as a requirement for the new service, both in terms of specific community groups and specialist support services. This is to ensure that individuals mental health needs are fully considered where individuals may be at higher risk of poor mental health outcomes, including, but not limited to those from specific ethnic minority communities (as identified by local mental needs assessment/NHS Race & Health Observatory Report) men, people living in areas of socio-economic deprivation and encounter barriers to health equity as a result, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and those with disabilities or physical health conditions.

As part of the competitive tender process Rethink Mental Illness were able to demonstrate how they will ensure that there is an equality of access to the service and that reasonable adjustments are championed throughout the service delivery.

Rigorous challenge and monitoring around equality issues takes place within the contract monitoring process and form part of quality assurance. Work will be undertaken with Rethink Mental Illness to ensure that clear contract monitoring reporting against KPIs is in place.

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been completed? Yes - published [here](#)

If 'Yes', please attached the signed Equality Impact Assessment.

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.

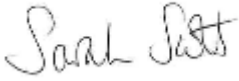
If any conflict of interest declared, was a dispensation granted by the Audit and Governance Committee of the Council?

No

Date of dispensation: N/A

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

No

<p><i>(Refer to Democratic Services Unit for advice if necessary)</i></p>	<p><i>If Yes, please provide details of document(s) that are confidential or exempt</i></p>
<p>Does this decision need to be published on the GCC website? <i>(Refer to guidance on “Executive Decisions taken by Officers”).</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 20px 0;">  </div> <p>Signed Name Sarah Scott Title Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Wellbeing and Communities</p>	
<p>Date 21.12.23</p>	
<p>Contact details for further information: Officer: Naomi Carley, Senior Commissioning Manager Tel: 04152 324199 Email: naomi.carley@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p>	
