

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	23 rd November 2021
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Bobby Feeley / Catrin Roberts (Regional Collaboration Team)
Report author	Catrin Perry / Siobhan Gothorp (Regional Collaboration Team)
Title	Regional Memory Assessment Support Service Invitation to Tender (ITT).

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. Cabinet approval is requested for Denbighshire County Council to act as the Lead Commissioner on behalf of the Regional Collaboration Team [six Local Authority and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board partners in North Wales] on an Invitation to Tender (ITT) with a potential contract value of up to £3.36 Million (over a potential 5-year period) for the Regional Memory Support Assessment Service.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. A decision is required on whether Denbighshire County Council may act as the Lead Commissioner.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That Denbighshire County Council act as the Lead Commissioner for the Regional Memory Support Assessment Service ITT.
- 3.2. That the ITT exercise is led by the Denbighshire County Council procurement team in order to ensure due process is followed which is appropriate to the level of the potential contract value.
- 3.3. That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix I) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

- 4.1. The North Wales Regional Partnership Board (RPB) through the Regional Collaboration Team, has secured additional / new and recurring funding to the value of £672,000 / annum from Welsh Government for the purpose of developing an enhanced regional approach to supporting individuals who have Memory issues/concerns or dementia at the pre-assessment and post-diagnosis stages.
- 4.2. Welsh Government has committed the funding under its 'Integrated Care Funding (ICF)' programme. The ICF programme was established to facilitate improved working between social care and health care services, and to make it easier for individuals to access high-quality services at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.3. The funding is to be used to support the implementation of the 'North Wales Dementia Strategy (March 2020)'.
- 4.4. The North Wales Leadership Group, which is composed of Local Authority Social Care Strategic Directors, will provide governance and scrutiny of the project.
- 4.5. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board will manage the distribution of the funding on behalf of the project. The Health Board has set up a holding account for this purpose.
- 4.6. The purpose of the ITT is to identify partners with whom the project can work to develop and implement a consistent / uniform level of access to services that will provide support at the pre-assessment stage (i.e. access to information and guidance) and post-diagnosis stage (i.e. long-term support) to those living with memory loss/ concerns or dementia and their family / carers.
- 4.7. The vision is the partners identified will establish an enhanced level of support, building on existing excellent practice across the region to provide a uniformed and more readily accessible network of support to those with concerns over memory loss. Ease of access to the support will be enhanced through implementing a network of hubs / access points across the region within those communities where there are none presently. Uniformity of support will be provided by developing regional referral and regional support pathways. In

essence, the project is seeking to implement a 'one stop shop' and 'dementia journey' approach regionally that builds on existing excellent localised practice to provide improved levels of support to those with concerns over memory loss.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. The North Wales Dementia Strategy (March 2020).

Support for people living with dementia is a priority in the 'North Wales Regional Plan (Area Plan)' based on what people told us was important to them as part of the 'North Wales Population Assessment'.

There is a legal duty in the 'Social Services and Well-being Act 2014' for Regional Partnership Boards to prioritise the integration of services in relation to older people with complex needs and long term conditions, including dementia.

The 'North Wales Dementia Strategy (March 2020)' sets out how we will work towards integrated dementia services in North Wales. It has been developed jointly by the six North Wales councils and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) supported by Public Health Wales, Bangor University and other partners.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. The Project Team has allocated the following budget for the services it is seeking under each lot in the ITT:

Lot 1: Provision of a regional pre-assessment and post-diagnosis support (i.e. Information, advice, guidance + support through the Memory Assessment Pathway): £360K / Annum;

Lot 2: Regional Identifiers (i.e. Identifying and supporting those diagnosed in other health settings): £112K / Annum;

Lot 3: Provision of Regional Dementia Centres (i.e. physical points of access to services and information, advice + guidance within the community): £200K / Annum.

- 6.2. There are no additional costs to the Council or the Partners for the management of the ITT. Existing members of staff from the Regional Collaboration Team will provide Project Management support to the ITT. Existing Denbighshire County Council / Flintshire County Council Corporate Procurement Department and Denbighshire County Council Legal Services Department will provide support on the procurement and legal aspects of the ITT.
- 6.3. The implications for other services will improve and increase the current provision by providing a pathway for partners and other services to follow across the region and create equitable access to services for people with memory issues, Dementia and their family / carers.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

- 7.1. The Well-being Impact Assessment was completed and reviewed by the Regional Collaboration Team and undertaken at initial and ongoing planning stages.
- 7.2. The pathway will deliver regional services that are efficient, effective and equitable for the population with dementia and their carers.
- 7.3. The pathway will remove the duplication identified enabling effective use of funding and service provision delivery.
- 7.4. The pathway will ensure individuals will be provided pre and post diagnosis support across the region.
- 7.5. The Pathway will provide additional service provision in pre diagnosis support to support health improvements and outcomes.
- 7.6. The pathway will provide contractual collaborative and integrated working processes between providers.
- 7.7. The pathway will support protected characteristics and provide support in the Welsh Language and / or language of choice.
- 7.8. The funding is recurrent and managed regionally, thereby ensuring sustainability of the project.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 8.1. Members of the North Wales Regional Partnership Board were consulted when application to Welsh Government was submitted for the purpose of developing an enhanced regional approach to supporting individuals who have concerns over memory loss at the pre-assessment and post-diagnosis stages. The submission has been approved and well received by the North Wales Leadership Group and the RPB. The Project Team will report on progress to the RPB.
- 8.2. The North Wales Leadership Group will provide governance and scrutiny of the project.
- 8.3. The Project Team will provide quarterly reports to the Leadership Group.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1. The service has confirmed that the external funding for the costs of this regional activity has been confirmed. Denbighshire County Council have a good record of management of regional collaboration which will help ensure that due process is followed. The recommendations are supported.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1. The ITT exercise would be led by the Denbighshire County Council procurement team in order to ensure due process is followed which is appropriate to the level of the potential contract value. This minimises the risk of challenge.
- 10.2. The risk of legal challenge is shared amongst the Regional Collaboration Partners as per the North Wales Regional Partnership Board – North Wales Regional Commissioning Board Collaboration Agreement 2019 – 2024.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. Contract Procedure Rule 2.7.2 iii requires procurement valued above £2,000,000.01 to be approved by Cabinet.