

<b>Report to</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of meeting</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Councillor Heaton & Councillor German / Nicola Stubbins
<b>Head of Service</b>	Ann Lloyd, Head of Adult Social Care & Homelessness Service & Rhian Morrille, Head of Children's Services
<b>Report author</b>	Liana Duffy, Contracts & Commissioning Team Manager, Adult Social Care & Homelessness Service
<b>Title</b>	The Council acting as the Lead Body for the renewal of the Regional North Wales Domiciliary Care Agreement.

## **1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1. Cabinet approval for the Council to act as the Lead Body for the renewal of the regional North Wales Domiciliary Care Agreement.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

- 2.1. A decision is required on the Council acting as the Lead Body (i.e., The Lead Commissioner) on behalf of the six Local Authority partners and the Health Board in North Wales on the Invitation to Tender (ITT) for the renewal of the regional North Wales Domiciliary Care Agreement ('the Agreement').

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1. That the Committee approves DCC acting as the Lead Body / Lead Commissioner for the ITT for the renewal of the Agreement and approves the Council Procurement Department to lead on the ITT exercise to ensure that due process is followed.

- 3.2. That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 1) and the Commissioning Form (Appendix 2) as part of its consideration.

## **4. Report details**

- 4.1. The Council previously led on the ITT exercise to establish the current regional Agreement for Domiciliary Care Services for adults on behalf of the six Local Authority partners and BCUHB. This Agreement commenced on 1st April 2018 and is due to end on 31st March 2025.
- 4.2. The North Wales Regional Commissioning Board wishes to renew the Agreement as this will enable the Local Authority and Health Board partners to work with external providers to further develop the range of domiciliary care and support services across North Wales. This will ensure that providers appointed to the Agreement operate under agreed contractual terms & conditions.
- 4.3. Renewing the Agreement ensures that the Local Authority and Health Board partners meet the requirements of the 'Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014' and the 'Regulation & Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016' and can work with appointed providers to develop high quality domiciliary care and support services across the region.
- 4.4. The scope of the ITT will include for a broader range of domiciliary care services than is currently covered under the existing NWDCA. It will include 'Standard', 'Complex' and 'Enhanced' Domiciliary Care Services and 'Respite' to children & young People, adults, and their family / carers. The existing NWDCA covers 'Standard' Domiciliary Care Services for adults only.
- 4.5. In terms of resources, DCC / FCC Procurement and DCC Legal will support DCC to undertake a compliant ITT exercise. The Regional Collaboration Team will also support DCC in issuing the ITT. A working group has been established, comprising all LA partners, BCU, the regional team and corporate procurement to plan and agree each stage of this piece of work.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?**

- 5.1. A prosperous Denbighshire - Through promoting the development of sustainable high-quality services people will feel encouraged to pursue a career within the healthcare and social care sectors. Providing employment and personal development opportunities will also support recruitment and retention.
- 5.2. A healthier and happier, caring Denbighshire - The ITT will build on the work under the existing Agreement to provide high quality domiciliary care and support to people across North Wales, focussing on meeting the healthcare and social care needs of people living in their own home. This care and support ensures that the health of people is regularly monitored and for any health concerns and / or wellbeing concerns to be identified as early as possible.
- 5.3. A learning and growing Denbighshire - The Agreement will promote the personal development of staff through requiring providers to have structured personal development plans in place for staff. The effectiveness of these plans will be routinely monitored during the lifetime of the Agreement.
- 5.4. A better connected Denbighshire - Regular contact with those receiving the services, providers and commissioning partners will identify the needs of those receiving care and support and will refer / signpost them to other support services in the community.
- 5.5. A greener Denbighshire - The Agreement will promote the provision of services that operate locally to those receiving the services in as efficient a manner as possible. This will minimise the use of transport when staff schedule visits.
- 5.6. A fairer, safe, and more equal Denbighshire - The services will be provided equitably to all people who are eligible. The fair employment policies and equalities practices of potential providers will be assessed during the ITT and monitored throughout the lifetime of the Agreement.
- 5.7. A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language - Potential providers will have to demonstrate that they provide services in the language of choice in-line with 'More than Just Words'. The ITT will make specific reference

to potential providers having to demonstrate an understanding of the Welsh language, culture and heritage of each area across North Wales.

- 5.8. A well-run, high performing council - The Agreement will promote the development of services that are readily accessible to those in need of care and support, thereby minimising the need for people to be referred to hospital and / or residential care, and that will facilitate timely discharge from hospital and / or residential care by providing high quality care and support in a person's own home.
- 5.9. The proposal will result in a positive contribution towards the Council becoming Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030 through developing services that are delivered in the most climate friendly manner possible, such as through the minimal use of transport through services being provided by staff who are located within the community in which they operate, and through promoting the use of electric vehicles and alternative means of transport whenever possible.

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

- 6.1. The cost of commissioning domiciliary care and support by each commissioning partner will continue to be met from within existing budgets.
- 6.2. All costs associated with the ITT tender exercise will be funded through contributions from all partners to the Regional Commissioning Board.

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

- 7.1. A Well-being Impact Assessment has been undertaken during the initial planning phases for the ITT. The Assessment detailed 3 stars and a score of 33 / 36: having a positive impact on all of the Well-being goals for Denbighshire.

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

- 8.1. The Lead Members have been briefed on the project and the ITT. The Lead Members have approved and signed-off the Commissioning Form (as required under Council Contract Procedure Rules).

- 8.2. Consultation with stakeholders and providers is an integral part of the Project Plan.
- 8.3. The regional 'Population Needs Assessment' and regional 'Market Stability Report' (both of which were completed following extensive consultation with members of the public and stakeholders) will be referenced to by commissioning partners when undertaking the ITT.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

- 9.1. The continued approach for commissioning in this area is supported. The financial implications for DCC will be factored into future budget projections.

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

- 10.1. A full project risk assessment has been completed and mitigating actions agreed by the commissioning partners.
- 10.2. Risk of receiving a challenge to the notification of unsuccessful tenders will be mitigated by providing comprehensive feedback to all unsuccessful bidders.
- 10.3. To impact on the award of the Agreement a legal challenge to the outcome of the ITT would have to be made. The evaluation of ITT submissions will be conducted in line with Council Contract Procedure Rules and a published evaluation methodology. Any legal challenge would, therefore, be unsuccessful.
- 10.4. All commissioning partners have agreed to underwrite this exercise and to contribute towards the Council's costs should the Council face any legal challenge resulting from the tendering exercise.
- 10.5. When submitting their rates as part of re-tendering providers may take the opportunity to increase their rates, especially given current rising costs. The evaluation of bids will however closely consider value for money, and include Finance review of budget breakdowns from providers.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

- 11.1. The Council Contract Procedure Rules require that the issuing of an ITT and the awarding of contracts with a value over £2M receive Cabinet approval.