

Notice of KEY Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	12 month contract extension for multiple contracts within the Adult Social Care Voluntary Community Sector Prevention Portfolio
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Jason Frost, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services
SLT Lead:	Barbara Nicholls, Director for Adults Social Care and Health
Report Author and contact details:	Jonathan Cassidy Senior Commissioner & Project Manager 01708 433588 Jonathan.Cassidy@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	Local Authorities duties under the Care Act – Section 2: Services, facilities or resources provided that may help an individual avoid developing needs for care and support, or help a carer avoid developing support needs by maintaining independence and good health and promoting wellbeing.

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Financial summary:	A 12 month extension to all contracts within the VCS Portfolio will cost a total of £531,624 The extensions will be funded from the existing budget.
Reason decision is Key	Expenditure of £500,000 or more
Date notice given of intended decision:	5 th November 2020
Relevant OSC:	Individuals
Is it an urgent decision?	No
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	No

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Places making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connections making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The decision maker is asked to approve 12 month extensions commencing 1 February 2021 for each of the following contracts within the Adult Social Care Voluntary Community Sector prevention portfolio, with a total aggregated value of £531,624 as follows:

1. Tapestry: Lunch Club Service – Extension Value £25,000
2. Age UK: Care Navigation Service – Extension Value £39,674
3. Age UK: Peer Support Service – Extension Value £39,674
4. Havering Mind: Peer Support Service – Extension Value £40,153
5. Havering Mind: Social Inclusion Service – Extension Value £40,358
6. Sycamore Trust: Autism Hub Service – Extension Value £80,000
7. Havering Association for People with Disabilities Service: Social Inclusion & Peer Support Service – Extension Value £80,000
8. Carers of Barking and Dagenham: Carers Hub Service – Extension Value £186,765

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Contracts Procedure Rules 19.4: power of a chief officer under the Scheme of Delegation to extend a contract provided that it was contemplated at the time the contract was awarded.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. The purpose of the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) offer is to provide support that prevents or reduces the need for statutory support making better use of available assets in the community to ensure that Havering residents get the best interventions and outcomes from the investments made by the Council.
2. In 2017, through the “Havering Carers, Inclusion and Peer Support Services tender, the Council simultaneously procured and awarded contracts for preventative services for vulnerable adults and their adult carers based on three outcome areas:
 - Promote social inclusion for those who are isolated and/ or prevent people from becoming socially excluded
 - Develop community resilience and personal wellbeing through peer support networks
 - Carers supported in their caring role and to maintain a life of their own

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3. Each area of need was sub divided into individual client groups which led to a total of 15 Tender Lots, each with up to £40,000 assigned and making a total investment of up to £600,000 per annum. The final result ended in a total of 10 contracts being awarded across 7 different providers.
4. The table shows the breakdown of all services within the VCS portfolio:

	Outcome Area: Carers	Outcome Area: Social Inclusion	Outcome Area: Peer Support
Client Group: Physical & Sensory Disability	Service: Havering Carers Hub Service Provider: Carers of Barking & Dagenham	Service: Social Inclusion Provider: Havering Association for People with Disabilities	Service: Community Friends Programme Provider: Havering Association for People with Disabilities
Client Group: Dementia		Service: Singing For The Brain Provider: Alzheimer's Society*	Service: Lunch Club Provider: Tapestry
Client Group: Mental Health		Social Inclusion Havering MIND	Peer Support Havering MIND
Client Group: Older Frail		Service: Care Navigation Service Provider: Age UK	Service: Di's Diamonds Provider: Age UK
Client Group: LD & Autism		Service: Autism Hub & Peer Support Groups Provider: Sycamore Trust	

5. On 1st February 2020, the Singing For the Brain Service provided by Alzheimer's Society was to be delivered in the community through their self-sustaining business model meaning they required no Council funding for year 3 of the contract. This left a total of 9 contracts across 6 providers.
6. The current services within the Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) portfolio provides a valuable service to the client groups they support. The VCS as a whole supported 411 new clients in 2018-19 and 471 new clients in 2019-20.
7. The VCS portfolio has proven to deliver positive outcomes to the clients groups they support which can be evidenced from the VCS outcomes reporting:
 - In 2018-19, 93% of clients who responded to the outcomes survey agreed or strongly agreed that their overall wellbeing has improved as a result of the VCS services

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- In 2018-19, 93% of clients who responded to the outcomes survey agreed or strongly agreed that it increased their social inclusion and social contact as a result of the VCS services
 - In 2018-19, 85% of carers who responded to the outcomes survey agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more supported in their caring role and able to remain in their caring role as a result of the carers VCS services
8. A tender exercise for a long-term contract for replacement services is planned between April and July 2021 with the intention that a new contract commences on 1st February 2022.
 9. The Council requires continuity of the VCS services, in order to support our overall aim to prevent or delay Havering residents from requiring statutory services and to remain as independent as possible within the community.
 10. The extension to all contracts will be funded from the existing budget.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Retender the VCS Contracts Immediately

- 1) Given the timescales this would prove a challenge. Furthermore, the proposed extension of 12 months will enable the Council sufficient time to develop a new commissioning model for the VCS, including review and development of the service specification and outcomes monitoring. All documentation for the tender and contracts will be produced jointly by a tender board to ensure it meets the needs and expectations of all stakeholders.

Do nothing and let the VCS contracts expire

- 2) Do nothing would mean that all 9 contracts would expire on 31st January 2021. This is not an option, as the Council would leave a high number of residents on the edge of statutory support without the services they require to continue to live independently in the community. If we do not commission these services, then there is a risk of vulnerable people being left without support, which could affect the demand for statutory services required from the Council.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

Consultation with a range of internal and external stakeholders including; the service providers.

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NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Jonathan Cassidy

Designation: Senior Commissioner & Projects Manager, Joint Commissioning Unit

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Cassidy', written in a cursive style.

Signature:

Date: 07/10/2020

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The terms of each contract permit extension by up to one year. The proposed extensions are therefore permissible.

Notice of extension should be given 3 months in advance of extension and in writing. The Council's legal team can draft notice of extension if required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The current costs of these eight contracts are funded by a number of Better Care Fund budgets from within the Strategy & Commissioning area of Adult Social Care that total £540k.

The cost of this key decision for a 12 month extension, commencing on 1st February 2021, for the 8 Voluntary Community Sector (VCS) providers in total, will be £531,624.

The cost will remain the same during the extension period and is affordable within existing resources that have been allocated as part of the Better Care Fund plan for 2020/21.

Investment in Voluntary Community Sector organisations is a key preventative measure and can act as a deterrent to increased longer term community care costs.

The re-tender of these contracts from February 2022 may provide an opportunity to reduce the cost of these commissioned services in future years.

However, as the VCS Contracts are funded via Better Care funding, there is a risk that if the BCF grant ceases or reduces in the future, alternative funding arrangements may need to be identified by Havering and partner organisations.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

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- (i) the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are: age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

If the recommendation to award an extension to the VCS contracts is agreed, it should have a positive impact on equality groups. It will enable all providers within the VCS portfolio to continue to provide services, ensuring consistency and the ability to maintain quality services for service users.

The services will continue to meet the needs of all eligible service users, including those from minority community groups and those 'protected' under Equality Act 2010 legislation.

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The contracts allow the provision of support and inclusive activities for vulnerable individuals including the disabled, those isolated and Carers. Social isolation and lack of activity affects mental and physical wellbeing therefore services by these voluntary sector help to maintain mental, physical and social wellbeing through social inclusion activities for those isolated and disabled including support for carers. Extending the contracts will enable continued support to the individuals to reduce isolation and continue living independently thereby maintaining their health and well-being.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed

Name:

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date:

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Committee Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____