



Notice of NON KEY Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Approval to extend the Shared Lives Contract
Decision Maker:	Barbara Nicholls, Strategic Director of People
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
SLT Lead:	Barbara Nicholls, Strategic Director of People
Report Author and contact details:	Laura Wheatley Telephone: 01708 434019 Email: laura.wheatley@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	<p>The Adult Social Care and Support Planning Policy states that Havering's vision is:</p> <p>'Supporting excellent outcomes for the people of Havering by helping communities to help themselves and targeting resources and interventions to encourage independence'</p>
Financial summary:	<p>The services are currently procured under a spot purchasing contract.</p> <p>The contract is made up of two parts:</p> <p>The first part of the contract is the costs for the Provider to manage the contract, recruit shared lives carers, manage placements and maintain CQC registration.</p> <p>The second part of the contract is the placement costs themselves. This includes projected spend, including current placements and anticipated growth. (This figure could increase or decrease, depending on actual</p>

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	placement numbers during the contract term). Total Cost for extension: £104,000.00
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision.

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

People - Things that matter for residents X

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place.

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

For the reasons detailed in this report the Strategic Director of People agrees to extend the Shared Lives Contract from the 4th February 2024 until the 30th April 2024 to allow sufficient time to complete the full procurement exercise.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

3.3 Powers of Members of the Senior Leadership Team

General powers

To make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way the Council's functions are exercised having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness etc. as required by external regulatory agencies.

Contract powers

(b) To award all contracts with a total contract value of between £500,000 and £5,000,000

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Shared Lives service is currently provided by Better Together Ltd. Shared Lives is a very niche and specialist market which is significantly limited.

The contract with Better Together for the provision of Shared Lives ends on the 4th February 2024.

This paper is seeking the approval to extend the Shared Lives Contract from the 4th February 2024 until the 30th April 2024 to allow sufficient time to complete the full procurement exercise.

The open tender will commence on the 6th November 2023, but due to the complex nature of the tender the procurement timeline will not end in time for the current contract end date. Time is required for mobilisation. Therefore, a 3-month extension is needed to ensure that we can fully complete the procurement exercise with no impact to service users in Shared Lives placements.

Shared Lives helps people to live at the heart of their communities, as part of an ordinary household, living independently, but not alone. In essence shared lives is akin to adult fostering and the person placed with the Shared Lives carer becomes an extended member of that family. This is therefore very different from supported living and other forms of arranged care. The scheme has shown positive outcomes for service users being achieved that may not have been if they had been placed in a different form of arranged care setting.

In addition to the positive outcomes, the contract has delivered since 2017 £492,825.77 of cashable savings and £530,164.54 of overspend savings.

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Better Together will continue to provide long-term accommodation and support, short term respite services and day support for people with eligible needs known to adult social care during this extension period.

The current vision for Adult Social Care Services is ‘Supporting excellent outcomes for the people of Havering by helping communities to help themselves and targeting resources and interventions to encourage independence’.

Approving the 3-month contract extension for this service therefore aligns with this vision by supporting adult social care clients to become more independent in relation to their housing and social care. The personalised and community approach to providing care ensures that clients have the skills to live as independently as possible, whilst being supported with their care needs.

The current contract is spot purchased on a case by case basis and funded by a number of budget codes, depending on the referring department/organisation. The fee paid to the scheme is structured in a tiered system with bands that reflect the service user’s needs. Payments made to the scheme are formed of a management fee and a carer service fee and this varies depending on the banding the client is assessed. The 3-month contract extension will continue on the current costings.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 - *Do nothing*

There is the option to do nothing and stop providing Shared Lives services when the contract ends on the 4th February 2024 until the new contract starts on the 1st May 2024. This option is not advised due to the number of placements the local authority has with Shared Lives and as positive outcomes for service users are being achieved. This option would also risk destabilising the existing placements for vulnerable adults who would likely require alternative accommodation options commanding higher weekly rates.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

None

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

Name: Laura Wheatley

Designation: Senior Commissioner & Project Manager

Signature: *L Wheatley*

Date: 03/11/2023

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The power for the Council to contract for the provision of the service is contained within the Care Act 2014. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions, or through its general power of competence.

Additionally, through its general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, the Council can do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to statutory limitations.

Officers seek authorisation to extend the contract with Better Together Ltd for a 3-month period to until the conclusion of the procurement process. As there was no provision in the initial contract for extension, a waiver to the Councils Contract Procedure Rules has been granted.

The value of the contract extension for the period of February 2024 until the April 2024 is £104,000.00 which is below the threshold for Part 3 "Light Touch" services under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR).

For the reasons set out above, the Council may proceed to extend the contract with Better Together Ltd for the period prescribed in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

This report is seeking the approval of a waiver to extend the current contract for a period of 3 months from 3rd February 2024 to 30th April 2024. This extension is being sought due to the procurement of the new contract being complex which would lead to the contract commencing on 1st May 2024. This would mean there would be no shared lives service for a period of 3 months which would risk destabilising existing placements of vulnerable adults and alternative accommodation options are currently at a higher weekly rate.

The contract is made up of two parts:

The first part of the contract are the costs for the provider to manage the contract, recruit shared lives carers, manage placements and maintain CQC registration.

The second part of the contract are the placement costs themselves.

The total annual cost for the 22/23 financial year was £437,000. A 3-month extension to the contract would cost in the region of £104,000 based on the 22/23 outturn figures, however this is a demand led service and costs are based on the number of clients that are in the shared lives provision.

This is an existing cost to Adult Social care and does not add any additional pressure to the overall financial position.

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

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable Human Resources implications or risks.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Havering has a diverse community made up of many different groups and individuals. The council values diversity and believes it essential to understand and include the different contributions, perspectives and experience that people from different backgrounds bring.

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:

- 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, gender, race and disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council demonstrates its commitment to the Equality Act in its decision-making processes, the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and employment practices concerning its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing of all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

A range of Shared Lives carer homes have been recruited in order to provide a personalised service and to respond to the needs of the population and the service is accessible to people regardless of their disability, condition or illness.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable Health and Wellbeing implications or risks.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable environmental implications or risks.

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

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Barbara Nicholls

Cabinet Portfolio held: Strategic Director People

Date: 8th November 2023

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____