

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Social Care, Safeguarding for Adults and Bolton Cares.

MONDAY, 6th MARCH, 2023

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor Morgan (not in attendance for Item 40)	- Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Galloway (in attendance for item 40 only)	- Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Councillor Mrs Thomas	- Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor McGeown	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Sanders	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Wright	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Heslop (as deputy for Councillor Newall)	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson

Officers

Ms R. Tanner	- Managing Director of the Bolton Integrated Care Partnership
Ms T. Minshull	- Assistant Director – Social Care and Public Health Commissioning
Ms L. Butcher	- Head of Finance - People
Mr R. Martinez	- Head of Community Safety and Area Working
Ms A. Kelly	- Senior Lawyer

Mrs S. Bailey

- Principal Democratic Services
Officer

**36. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER
DECISIONS**

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Cabinet Member.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

**37. ADULTS AND HOUSING PERFORMANCE REPORT
QUARTER 3 2022-23**

The Managing Director of the Bolton Integrated Care Partnership submitted a report which provided the latest available 2022-23 performance information for the Department of Adult Services.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

**38. DEPARTMENT OF ADULTS AND HOUSING –
STRATEGIC BUDGET REPORT 2023/24**

The Borough Treasurer and the Managing Director of the Bolton Integrated Care Partnership submitted a report which put forward the Revenue, savings and Capital Budgets for 2023/24 for Adults and Housing Services.

The report outlined the Revenue Budget for the Department of Adults and Housing for the Financial Year 2023/2024 and included an analysis of how the budget, including savings, had been prepared and assumptions that had been taken.

In addition, the report included the Capital Programme for 2023/2024.

The report advised that the Adult's Department was required to realise £1.58m of savings, details of which were provided in

Appendix C. This report proposed to realise the following savings in the 2023/24 budget:-

- Supported Housing (£580k)
- Review of all the controllable budgets within the Adults Directorate and streamlining processes. (£450k)
- income contributions from external partners (£300k)

Appendix D detailed the Adult's Department's Capital Programme which totalled £164k in the 2023/24 Financial Year.

Housing's Capital Allocation for 2023/24 was £42k.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED:

- (i) The revenue budget for Adult Services - £75,228,900**
- (ii) The revenue budget for Housing Services - £1,929,200**
- (iii) The capital programme for Adult Services - £164,000**
- (iv) The capital allocation for Housing Services - £42,000; and APPROVED -**
- (iv) The identified savings and efficiencies within the report now submitted; and**
- (v) The delegation of authority to the Managing Director of the Bolton Integrated Care Partnership to call off on the framework(s) for the capital programme as detailed in section 7 of the report now submitted.**

39. COMMUNITY LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICE REALIGNMENT

The Managing Director of the Bolton Integrated Care Partnership submitted a report which set out proposals to realign the Integrated Learning Disability Intensive Support Team within the broader Community Learning Disability service to enable a more resilient Service.

The Community Learning Disability Service was an integrated service between Bolton Council and Bolton NHS Foundation Trust. The Council was the host for the services and managed the health functions and staff who are seconded from the Foundation Trust.

The report also set out a proposal to repurpose a vacant management position from the health establishment to create a Social Care Deputy Management post within the Council's employment.

The conversion of the previous Health Team Manager post into a Social Work Deputy Post and its establishment within the Community Learning Disability Team would enable the delivery of safe Social Work practice and meet legal and statutory requirements.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The realignment of the Intensive Support team within the Community learning disability service on the basis detailed in the report now submitted; and**
- (ii) The establishment of a Deputy Team Manager post (Grade J) within the Councils establishment, as now detailed.**

40. FEES REPORT 2023/24 - ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Borough Treasurer and the Managing Director of the Bolton Integrated Care Partnership submitted a report which set out proposals in relation to the setting of Adult Social Care provider fee rates for 2023/24 for consideration and approval.

Full details of the proposed 2023/24 fees as they related to the Council were provided in Section 6 of the report.

The Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services, as deputy for the Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, APPROVED –

The Adult Social Care provider fee rates, as detailed in section 6 of the report now submitted.

41. TRANSITION TEAM – PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD TEAM ESTABLISHMENT

The Managing Director of the Bolton Integrated Care Partnership submitted a report which sought approval to expand the establishment of the Preparing for Adulthood Transition Team to meet the increased demand within this service area and to ensure statutory services and good practice were delivered.

The report advised that following a recent review of the work of the Service, it had been established that the Team did not have sufficient capacity to work with all individuals from the age of 14yrs and that there were an additional 156 young people in Bolton from the age of 14 that would benefit from being supported through the Transition Team process.

In addition, the review identified that cases were becoming more complex with young people presenting with multiple issues and complex mental health needs. The review therefore recommended that it would be beneficial that any additional resources should support Social Worker posts to manage these complexities.

In this regard, the report sought approval to increase the capacity of the team by an additional three posts of qualified social workers to support the volume of court work required.

Further, it was also proposed to increase the operational management capacity by the establishment of a Deputy Team Manager position to provide effective supervision and operational oversight of the case work in the Team and aligns to the professional standards for employers for social work practice.

Details of the existing and proposed structure were provided in the report.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

The establishment of a Deputy Team Manager post (Grade J) and three Social Work Posts to enable the Transition Team to deliver services in accordance with statutory duties, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

42. COMMISSIONING OF DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES

The Managing Director of the Bolton Integrated Care Partnership submitted a report which provided an update on the progress in implementing a Flexible Purchasing System for community services and put forward proposals for a strategic review of commissioned Domestic Abuse Services and proposed next steps regarding the award of contracts in 2023.

The report advised that Bolton Council commissioned a range of services and support for victims of domestic abuse and their children from several external partner organisations that collectively contributed to the Council's duties and priorities in this area.

The report summarised the current services and the short-term actions required to re-commission these services and proposed next steps to strategically review how these essential support services could be commissioned in the medium to long-term.

In this regard, it was proposed that new 12-month contracts for the services outlined in Appendix A to the report were formalised through the direct contract award process set out in the new Community Flexible Purchasing System with refreshed specifications and outcomes to ensure effective service delivery by way of the following:

- Option One - the direct award of new 12-month contracts, subject to funding being confirmed, under the Community Flexible Purchasing System to continue to provide these vital services meeting the Domestic Abuse Act statutory duty. This will enable the development of a planned and coordinated long-term approach to the commissioning of domestic abuse support services, including completing a strategic review and revising all specifications and outcomes to ensure that services were fit for purpose, high quality, effective, and value for money.

-Option 2 - to let the current contract end with no provision in place whilst developing the new framework. This would mean not meeting the statutory duties and increasing pressures on social housing and other services.

Option 1 was the recommend course of action.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) Option One, which includes the direct award of 12-month contracts, subject to funding being available, via the Community Flexible Purchasing System to the organisations outlined in Appendix A of the report now submitted, for the delivery of Domestic Abuse Services, on the terms now detailed, whilst a strategic commissioning review of these services is completed to ensure compliance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 duties.**
- (ii) The delegation of authority to the Assistant Director of Adult Services - Social Care and Public Health Commissioning, to negotiate and enter suitable contractual arrangements to formalise the proposals contained within the report now submitted; and**

- (iii) **The authorisation of the Borough Solicitor to carry out any necessary legal formalities in this regard.**

43. COMMUNITY FLEXIBLE PURCHASING SYSTEM – HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

The Managing Director of the Bolton Integrated Care Partnership submitted a report which outlined proposals to re-commission Homelessness Social Inclusion Services via the newly established Flexible Purchasing System for community services.

The report advised that the Council commissioned a range of homelessness social inclusion and support services from several external partner organisations that collectively contributed to the Council's duties to prevent and reduce homelessness and provide access to secure accommodation to those affected by homelessness. Work was ongoing to develop a strategic approach to the future commissioning of these services to improve outcomes for local people who may be at risk of homelessness.

The report outlined the progress to date, including the development of a Community Services Flexible Purchasing System, and summarised the next steps in developing a strategic commissioning approach, including light touch service reviews and requesting approval for short-term direct contract awards to ensure stability of existing services.

To this end, the report proposed that new twelve-month contracts for the services outlined in Appendix A be formalised through the direct contract award process defined in the new Community Flexible Purchasing System utilising light touch reviews, with refreshed specifications and outcomes to ensure effective service delivery. The rationale for this approach is outlined in more detail in the following options:

- Option One - to directly award new twelve -month contracts under the community Flexible Purchasing System to continue to provide these essential services, alongside completion of a strategic review of these commissioned services. This will

enable the development of a planned and co-ordinated long-term approach to the commissioning of homelessness social inclusion services, including completing a strategic review and revising all specifications and outcomes, to ensure services are fit for purpose, high quality, effective, and value for money.

- Option Two - to a longer-term contract which may provide stability for the service provider, including continuity of service and financial stability. This option would not provide the opportunity to fully consider a longer-term commissioning commitment based on evidence and there was a need to refresh service specifications to ensure they remained fit for purpose, aligned to national legislation and outcome-focused.
- Option Three - to let the current contract end with no provision in place whilst developing the new framework. This would mean not meeting the statutory duties and increasing pressures on social housing and other services.

The report advised that Option 1 was the recommended course of action.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED -

- (i) Option One, which includes the direct award of twelve month contracts to the organisations outlined in Appendix A of the report, for the delivery of Homelessness Services, on the basis now detailed, whilst a light touch strategic commissioning review of these services is completed.**
- (ii) The delegation of authority to the Assistant Director - Social Care and Public Health Commissioning to negotiate and enter suitable contractual arrangements to formalise the proposals contained within the report now submitted; and**
- (iii) The delegation of authority to the Borough Solicitor to carry out all necessary legal formalities in this regard; and NOTED -**

- (iv) The proposals for a strategic commissioning review of these services to be completed in order to develop long-term commissioning intentions.**