

Report for: Cabinet Member Signing – 20 April 2023

Title: Variation and extension of Housing Related Support Contract – Home from Hospital Service

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non-Key Decision: Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to implement Contract Standing Order 10.02.1b, to vary and extend the current contract for the provision of a Home from Hospital Service, provided by Bridge Renewal Trust.
- 1.2 Subject to approval, the contract will be varied and extended for a further period of nine (9) months commencing 1st July 2023 to 31st March 2024.
- 1.3 The estimated cost of the service for a duration of a further 9 months will be £112,500 making the total aggregated value over the life of the contract £660,000.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing is recommended:

- 3.1. To approve a variation of the terms of the Council’s existing contract for the provision of a Home from Hospital service provided by The Bridge Renewal Trust to allow for its extension for a further period of nine (9) months, pursuant to Contract Standing Order (CSO) 10.02.1 (b).
- 3.2. To approve the extension of the contract from 1st July 2023 to 31st March 2024 at a cost of £112,500 (core funding £120,000 and £5,000 on a payment by result basis), making the total aggregated value over the life of the contract £660,000).

3.3. To note that the cost of the contract is currently funded by North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) through the Better Care Fund budget, NCL ICB having indicated that funding for financial year 2023/24 will be available. Therefore, the contract will be extended for a period of 9 months (up to 31st March 2024).

4. **Reasons for decision**

4.1. The Home from Hospital service provides valuable support for people leaving hospital and prevents readmissions. The proposed contract variation will enable the Council to provide a continuous Home from Hospital Service in Haringey which will prevent unnecessary admissions to medical assessment and inpatient wards after presentation at A&E and will save unnecessary health costs.

4.2. The funding for this service comes from the Better Care Fund (BCF), currently held by the NCL ICB and renewed annually. The NCL ICB has indicated that funding for financial year 2023/24 will be available.

5. **Alternative options considered**

5.1. **Do Nothing** – It would be possible to leave the contract to cease at the end of the current contract period. However, there is continued high demand for this service and it continues to achieve positive outcomes for vulnerable people whom the NCL ICB and Council have a statutory and/or strategic responsibility for and commitment to. Therefore, it would not be in the Council's interest to let this contract end at this time.

5.2. **In-house provision** – was considered and was found not to be suitable for delivery of this service, as there is not currently the expertise within the Council to provide this service.

5.3. **Go out to tender** – It would be possible to tender the current contract and seek a new or refreshed contract, however, there are a number of ongoing projects aligned with the 'Home from Hospital Service' which are still in development. It is therefore not considered an effective use of resources to procure a new service at this time.

5.4. Further to the above, the 2023/24 Better Care Fund budget has not been finalised. At the time of writing, there is no guarantee that this funding will continue beyond the extension period requested. Therefore, undertaking a competitive procurement is not a viable option.

6. **Background information**

6.1. This contract provides a Home from Hospital service in borough which supports Haringey residents aged 18 and over to:

- Return home safely from hospital (effective discharge)

- Avoid re-admission within 28 days of discharge in the case of a number of residents who have accessed the Home from Hospital service (excluding residents with scheduled appointments)
- Have a supported discharge from emergency departments and medical assessment wards (admission avoidance). Be sustained in a number of cases in their communities following an admission to hospital.

6.2. The contract for Home from Hospital Service was awarded to Bridge Renewal Trust from 1st April 2020. The initial contract term of 12 months with an option to extend for 5 months was varied twice to extend the term until 30 June 2023, before the further extension currently proposed would start. A breakdown of the initial term and of each of the subsequent extension periods showing the value for each and the aggregated value as well as applicable VAT for calculating the total value for current purposes is as follows:

Dates	Values £
1 April 2020 to 31 August 2021	£212,500
1 September 2021 to 31 March 2022	£87,500
1 April 2022 to 30 June 2023	£187,500
1st July 2023 to 31 st March 2024	£112,500
Total (ex-VAT)	£600,000
VAT on values from April 21 (as per PPN 10/2021)	£60,000
Aggregated Total (including applicable VAT)	£660,000

6.3. Commissioning has been undertaking regular contract monitoring with the provider, receiving and reviewing performance data which demonstrates that targets are met and requisite outcomes are delivered. In 2021/22 the service supported 502 patients. The majority of referrals were received from Whittington hospital (23.3%) and North Middlesex hospital (15.3%).

6.4. Given the limited time available between confirmation of funding for 2023/24 and the contract expiry date, there is insufficient time to undertake a procurement process. It is therefore considered to be in the Council's overall interest to vary the term of the contract to allow sufficient time for re-commissioning of the service. .

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1. The service directly links to **Priority 2** – *Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives:*

- All residents will be as healthy as possible for as long as possible.
- Health related quality of life will improve over time (including mental health and wellbeing).

7.2. The service contributes to the borough's emerging work to develop an integrated Older People and Frailty Strategy, in particular in relation to the aim of preventing hospital re-admissions for falls and other preventable issues linked to frailty.

8. Statutory Officer Comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

8.1. Finance

- 8.1.1. The report seeks approval to vary and extend the contract with Bridge Renewal Trust for the provision of a Home from Hospital Service for 9 months from 1st July 2023 to 31st March 2024.
- 8.1.2. The costs for the period 1st July 2023 to 31st March 2024 will be £112,500.
- 8.1.3. Funding for the extension in 2023-24 is from the Better Care Fund (BCF) held by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) as stated in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

8.2. Procurement

- 8.2.1. The report relates to services which would be subject to the Light Touch Regime under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR), if valued at or above a threshold of £663,540. The total value of the contract referred to in this report is £660,000 (inclusive of VAT for the contract extension from 1st April 2022 to 30th June 2023 and further extension for 9 months proposed in paragraph 3 above).
- 8.2.2. The Cabinet Office published a Procurement Policy Note (PPN) no. 10/21 in December 2021, which came into effect from 1st January 2022, which requires public sector contracting authorities to include VAT (where applicable), when calculating the estimated value of the contract to determine whether the regulations apply. The total aggregated value of the contract would be £660,000 (inclusive of VAT for contract period of 1st April 2022 to 30th June 2023 and proposed extension - see paragraph 6.2 for breakdown of contract price) which is below the threshold of £663,500, the PCR Light Touch Regime requirements will not apply.
- 8.2.3. Considering the budget constraints and insufficient time available to carry out a tender process, it is therefore not in the Council's overall interest to deploy resources and attempt to go out to market with uncertainty of future funding beyond March 2024.
- 8.2.4. The request for contract variation is permitted under Contract Standing Orders (CSO) 16.02 and 10.02.1(b), the reasons for which are set out at paragraphs 4 and 6 above.
- 8.2.5. The extension will enable service continuity as well as allowing time to secure the funding, prior to undertaking a competitive procurement process to renew the service.
- 8.2.6. Under the CSO 10.02.1, a contract extension and variation may be approved subject to satisfactory outcomes of contract monitoring. The service provider has demonstrated that contract targets and outcomes have been met which meet the CSO 10.02.1 criteria to permit the request. The extension of the

provision of home from hospital service will also reduce more expensive in-hospital care, thereby reducing the call on public funds.

8.3. Legal

8.3.1. The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.3.2. The extension and variation of the contract referred to in the recommendations at paragraph 3 will increase the aggregate value of the contract including the proposed extension and variation to £660,000. This contract value calculation includes VAT on the services contracted for since the contract was extended from the 1st April 2022 as required pursuant to Crown Commercial Service Procurement Policy Note (PPN) no. 10/21. The aggregate value of the contract is below the threshold of £663,500 above which the contract would be subject to the full requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) including the requirements for publicly tendering services above that threshold. The proposed extension/variation therefore does not fall foul of PCR 2015 requirements.

8.3.3. At the same time, the proposed contract extension and variation, by increasing the value of the contract by £112,000 plus VAT, will take the aggregate value of the contract over £500,000. As a result, under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 3.01(d), the decision to approve the proposed extension/variation is a Key Decision which must be taken at Cabinet level.

8.3.4. While Cabinet has authority under CSO 10.02.1(b) to approve an extension to a contract where the resulting value is £500,000 or more, under CSO 16.02, the lead Cabinet Member for the matter may take the decision in place of Cabinet where the decision has been allocated to the Cabinet Member by the Leader.

8.3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing the Cabinet Member from approving the recommendations in the report.

8.4. Equality

8.4.1. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

8.4.2. The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race,

religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

- 8.4.3. The decision is to award a variation and extension for 9 months for the existing Home from Hospital Service delivered by Bridge Renewal Trust.
- 8.4.4. Those most likely to be affected by the decision are service users and potential service users of the service. Service level data from the existing services shows that service users reflect the demographic makeup of the borough of Haringey.
- 8.4.5. This decision to award the extension for 9 months will help ensure that the Council continues to address known inequalities that affect individuals with protected characteristics relating to age, sex, race, and disability. Accordingly, the decision represents progress to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity.

9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1. Not applicable.