

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 14 March 2024
REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adults
PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care
SUBJECT: Home Based Respite Care Service in Halton
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Board approval is sought for a Waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 iv of part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders, for the granting of a direct award to support the continuation of the provision of the Home-Based Respite Care Service in Halton, to be delivered by Care at Home Group Limited for an 18-month period from 19th April 2024 to 18th October 2025.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) Note the contents of the report; and
- 2) Approve a Waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 iv of part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders, for a direct award to support the continuation of the provision of the Home-Based Respite Care Service in Halton delivered by Care at Home Group Limited for the period from 19th April 2024 to 18th October 2025.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Home Based Respite care provides practical help, personal care and emotional support to people in their own homes, replacing the care normally provided by their informal carer and allowing that carer to have respite from their caring. The Service therefore supports carers and the cared for to help them remain independent for as long as possible.

The service aims to support both the carer and the cared for in enabling regular carers respite. This allows carers to have time away from their role as informal carer, whilst maintaining a safe and consistent level of support to the individual.

3.2 Respite is often used as an umbrella term, referring to a broad spectrum of activities encompassing home based services. It is generally acknowledged that respite varies according to its nature, circumstances of provision, who it is

provided by, or to and when it is available. For the purposes of this contract the service:

- is for planned respite;
- offers flexibility in service provision and service delivery;
- supports carers of people who live at home with a long-term condition that restricts their ability to get out of their home on their own;
- is delivered to Halton residents;
- is available to adults over 18; and
- is for any adult carer who is identified as having a need.

3.3 Crossroads Care North-West had delivered the Home-Based Respite Care Service in Halton for a number of years. However, in March 2023, we received notification from the provider that the company would be going into liquidation and no longer be in a position to deliver the service.

Due to the short notice received and in order to ensure provision could continue, on advice from the Council's Procurement Team, an Expression of Interest exercise was undertaken to source an alternative provider and as a result of this exercise, Care at Home Group Limited (CAHG) were commissioned to deliver the service. The contract that was put in place with the provider was for twelve months and commenced on 19th April 2023.

3.4 As well as being registered with the Care Quality Commission for the provision of personal care, to ensure that the service delivered by CAGH is of the necessary quality, we have robust contract management arrangements in place, which consists of monthly and quarterly provision of both quantitative and qualitative information and half-yearly monitoring meetings with the provider.

3.5 A waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 iv of part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders is sought to award CAHG an 18-month contract from 19th April 2024 to 18th October 2025.

During this period, we will aim to commence a new procurement process for the supply of a Home-Based Respite Care Service in Halton and it is anticipated that the contract would be for a 3-year period.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Continuing this service supports the Council in its development of out of hospital services with NHS Cheshire & Merseyside and in respect to the One Halton placed based approach. It also supports our commitment to providing breaks for carers in line with local and national targets and to assist people to live in their own homes and remain independent for as long as possible.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Waiver in compliance with Standing Order 1.14.4 of part 3: Non-Emergency Procedures (exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) on the basis that a full

tender process would result in the Council having to forego a clear financial or commercial benefit (1.14.4 iv).

- 5.2 Awarding a contract to the existing provider would support continuity of care for a vulnerable client cohort and allow for sufficient time to undertake a new procurement process.
- 5.3 The waiver would be effective for the period 19th April 2024 to 18th October 2025.
- 5.4 The total financial cost to the pooled budget for the 18-month contract would be £187,110.

The cost of this contract will be met within existing Better Care Fund budget allocations.

- 5.5 Home Based Respite Care is usually provided on a regular weekly basis for between 1 - 4 hours. The actual number of hours that are delivered to an individual will be based on need. This figure will be determined as part of the development of the individuals care plan, this can be completed through an agreed assessment and may be required at evenings/weekends and in some circumstances may require sleeping/waking nights.

Based on the contract value, during the course of the contract there would be expectation that CAHG would provide 9,000 hours of respite. This is based on the current Domiciliary Care provider rate of £20.79 per hour. Please note that as the contract would run into the financial year 2025/26, then we would review the hourly rate with the provider towards the end of 2024/25 to explore if an inflationary uplift was required to the contract.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

N/A

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

N/A

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

This service makes an important contribution to the health and social care system in Halton.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

N/A

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 This contract falls below the current EU Light Touch Regime threshold of £663,540 and subsequently the risk of challenge will be negligible.

7.2 The Service will continue to be monitored to ensure that the Council, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside and Halton residents receive value for money.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None identified.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no environmental or climate implications as a result of this report.

10.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

10.1 Approval of the Direct Award to Care at Home Group Limited for an 18-month period would support continuity of care for a vulnerable client cohort and allow for sufficient time to undertake a new procurement process for the service.

11.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

11.1 1. Allow the Home-Based Respite Service to cease.

12.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

12.1 The 18-month contract would take effect from 19th April 2024.

13.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

13.1 None identified.