

RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

APPROVAL FOR THE PROVISION OF 20 DISCHARGE TO ASSESS / COMMUNITY FLOW BEDS BY WAY OF AN EXEMPTION TO EXTEND

Decision made

To approve the repurposing of the existing Intensive Rehabilitation and Delirium at Little Manor Nursing Home beds provision to Hospital Discharge Support Units (HDSU) to support customers urgent discharge from hospital due to the Covid-19 crisis.

The total value for a maximum of 26 weeks commencing on the 20.01.2021 is anticipated to be £1,170,000.00. This is a maximum contract and it is envisaged that the service will revert to normal as soon as the current emergency eases (the contract will contain a 4-week notice period so that we can be responsive to changing needs). Please see appendix 1 for details of the contracts.

To allow the Strategic Procurement Hub to enter into the resulting contracts in line with the Council's Constitution and Schemes of Delegation, including the use of e- signatures where permitted and considered appropriate.

Made by: Helen Jones Director of Commissioning

Background

1. As the Director for Commissioning, I am responsible for any matters relating to Domiciliary Care in the County of Wiltshire on behalf of Wiltshire Council. The power to make a decision in respect of this matter is delegated to me pursuant to Wiltshire Council's Constitution. In any event, pursuant to paragraph 4 of Part 3 Section D, the Directors of Wiltshire Council are empowered to take all necessary decisions in cases of emergency where the Director concerned believes that there is a risk of damage to property, a threat to the health or wellbeing of an individual and/or that the interests of the Council may be compromised if this decision is not otherwise taken.
2. Currently, the UK is experiencing a pandemic outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. A direct impact of this is the necessity for Wiltshire Council to make rapid decisions to secure the health & wellbeing of the Community and to support the wider Health and Social Care System
3. These repurposed services are being procured under regulation 72(1)(c) Modification of contracts during their term, which states that:
"where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:
 - (i) the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen;*
 - (ii) the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract;*
 - (iii) any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract or framework agreement*

4. The UK finds itself facing unprecedented times and the use of this regulation allows the Council to act quickly and responsively to the changing environment due to Covid 19.

Reason for decision

1. There is an urgent need to secure additional in a care home setting because:
 - a. The UK is experiencing a pandemic outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.
 - b. Due to commencement of second wave of COVID 19, which has entered a serious phase under the second wave due to variant Covid strains. Although the second wave was anticipated the significant increase in cases, which continues to rise, could not be anticipated. The consequences of the increased cases are not something that could have been predicted.
 - c. Wiltshire requires capacity to support the discharge of people from acute and community hospitals. In order to create this capacity, the council have been requested to commission additional nursing care provision to facilitate earlier discharge from the community hospital, to create and maintain flow for the whole system (acute hospitals, community hospitals and supporting services)
 - d. The provision of these services will mean that customers can be supported in a nursing environment (who have not tested positive for Covid – 19) following discharge from an NHS Hospital. This will help support the health system by releasing beds in NHS hospitals for those in greater need of specialist healthcare support.
 - e. A block contract agreement for additional nursing bed capacity will mean that customers can be discharged quickly, without delay, compared to alternative commissioning arrangements. This therefore provides more responsive capacity needed to support such discharges.
 - f. The funding for this provision will be provided via the Hospital Discharge Fund (HDF), which in turn means the cost of this provision is met by the NHS.

2. I confirm that in making this decision I have considered the following in line with Wiltshire Council's Constitution:

Key decision requirements	Yes
Views of relevant cabinet member(s), committee chairman, area board(s)	Leader and cabinet member have been appraised
Consideration of the area boards and delegated decision checklist for officers on the issue of when and how to involve local councillors and area boards in decisions about local services	Not Applicable
Implication of any council policy, initiative, strategy or procedure	Yes
Consultation in accordance with the council's consultation strategy	Not Applicable
Range of options available	Yes
Staffing, financial and legal implications	Yes
Evidence of due regard having been given to the Public Sector Equality Duty.	Yes. This will principally benefit elderly people and others from vulnerable groups.
Risk assessment	Yes
Involvement of statutory officers and/or directors	Yes
Regional or national guidance from other bodies	Not Applicable
The council's constitution	Yes
This contract is suitable for execution under the e-signature process.	Yes

Conflict of Interest

1. Not applicable

Other options considered

2. Given the extreme urgency, no other options were considered.

Made by: Helen Jones, Director of Commissioning

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Date: 19/01/2021

Contract	Company	Care Home	Number of Beds	Cost per Week per Bed	Total (26 weeks maximum)
AC0964D Intensive Rehabilitation	Wessex Care	Little Manor	10	£1500.00	£390,000.00
AC1137 Intensive Rehabilitation	Wessex Care	Little Manor	15	£1500.00	£585,000.00
AC1138 Intensive Rehabilitation	Wessex Care	Little Manor	05	£1500.00	£195,000.00