

14 June 2023		ITEM: 12 Decision: 110654
Cabinet		
Award of Contract for Occupational Therapy and Independent Mobility Assessment Service		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Cllr George Coxshall, Cabinet Member for Health, Adults Social Care, Community & Public Protection		
Accountable Assistant Director: Les Billingham, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care and Community Development		
Accountable Director: Ian Wake, Acting Director of Adult Social Care		
This report is Public with an exempt appendix which is exempt due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)		
Date of notice given of exempt of confidential report: 6 th June 2023		

Executive Summary

This paper (and attached appendices (exempt from publication) presents the recommendations of the outcome of the open tender to seek a Provider to:

- Undertake Occupational Therapy assessment for items or adaptations under £1,000 to eligible individuals as defined by the Care Act (2014) and;
- Independent Mobility Assessments pursuant to the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (1970) and the Equality Act (2020).

The Occupation Therapy and Independent Mobility Assessment Services need to be commissioned to facilitate high quality outcome focused assessments for individuals eligible for non-specialist Occupational Therapy (OT support) and Independent Mobility Assessments (IMAs), via one-to-one assessments and clinics, for the Passenger Transport Services. Additionally the provision of these services discharges the Authority's legal duties under the afore mentioned legislation.

The re-procurement exercise via open tender was previously recommended by Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as well as Cabinet (decision 110626) and will remain at the existing budgeted amount of £99,360 per annum.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That Cabinet agrees with Procurement's recommendation to appoint the winning provider to fulfil the obligations under the contract to provide an occupational therapy and independent mobility assessment service.**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Adult Social Care adopts a strength-based approach, focusing on the strengths and abilities of the individual and aims to connect them to support from friends, family and the wider community. By adopting an ethos of providing the right care at the right time in the right place, this equipment services enables individuals to remain at home and part of their local communities.
- 2.2 The current contract is held by Inclusion.Me for the last 5 years costing £99,360 per annum, and the contract price has not increased during this period. During 2021/22 504 assessments were undertaken from 594 referrals, of which 96.5% had outcomes completed and submitted within 2 working days.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

There are two options considered below:

3.1 Accept Procurement's recommendation to award (recommended).

- 3.11 This would appoint the Provider that has been deemed the most appropriate via an open competitive tender process (Procurement report in section 9) to discharge its duties under the Care Act (2014) to undertake Occupational Therapy assessments and Independent Mobility Assessments under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (1970) and the Equality Act (2020).

3.2 To reject Procurement's recommendation to award (not recommended).

- 3.2.1 The rejection of the recommendation would risk a breakdown in service provision as the Authority would either need to seek an extension from the existing Provider and / or undertake another tender exercise.
- 3.2.2 It could also result in a potential challenge to the Authority from tenderers involved in the procurement process. Any successful challenge could lead to financial remuneration to some or all of the bidders.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 This contract has been via an open procurement process and all organisations willing and able to bid for this contract have had the opportunity to do so. Therefore, as the contract will be expiring and this provision is required to fulfil our statutory requirements under the Care Act (2014), it would be appropriate to appoint the winning bidder

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Impact on corporate policies priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 The contract to provide an Occupational Therapy and Independent Mobility Assessment Service:

People – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This not only fulfils the Authorities obligations under the Care Act (2014) to prevent, reduce and delay but also links in to its overarching objectives to keep vulnerable people within their local communities to provide better, longer terms outcomes.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Strategic Lead Finance Corporate Finance

The funding for the provision of the contract will be contained within the directorates existing budget allocation.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Mark Bowen**
Interim Project Lead - Legal

Following the previous report, a lawful and compliant procurement process has been undertaken and the recommendation proposes an award to the tenderer who taking price and quality into account delivered the best value for money as assessed under the contract evaluation procedure. The award of the contact will facilitate the Council discharging its duties under the Care Act 2014.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager Community Development
Adults Housing and Health

The executive summary of the report sets out the responsibilities of the authority to provide the Occupational Therapy and Independent Mobility Assessment service in line with the Care Act (2014), Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (1970) and the Equality Act (2010).

Social value has been considered as part of the commissioning process for this service and will be monitored as part of the standard contract review cycle with the agreed supplier.

- 7.4 **Other** implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder and impact on Looked After Children

N/A

8. **Background papers used in preparing this report** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

N/A

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 – Procurement Report OT and Mobility Service (exempt)

Report Author:

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