

Executive Report



Delegated Decisions - 12 March 2024

AWARD OF CONTACT - DEMENTIA INFORMATION AND ADVICE SUPPORT SERVICE

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor Emily Darlington (Cabinet member for Adults, Housing and Healthy Communities)
Report sponsor	Hannah Soetendal Head of Commissioning
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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	Yes – Exempt Annex
Council Plan reference	Commitment 6 - Supporting Vulnerable People
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

This report is seeking authorisation to award the contract for the Dementia Information and Support Services.

Alzheimer Society currently provide the service under a grant agreement with an annual value of £0.115m. The request to award the new contract is on commissioned agreement at the cost of £0.135m per annum and a lifetime cost of £0.675m over five years.

1. Proposed Decisions

- 1.1 That the public and press be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the Financial or Business Affairs of the Authority) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the meeting consider the **exempt annex** to the report.
- 1.2 That the contract for Dementia Information and Support Services be awarded to the bidder who has presented the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) with the highest score as identified in the **exempt annex**.

1.3 That the contract be awarded for three years, with the option of extending for a further two years, subject to good performance, at the sum of £0.675m.

2. Reason for the Decision

2.1 Agreement to award a contract is sought following an open tender as required by the Council's Contract Procurement Rules and Financial Regulations.

2.2 The Dementia Support Service is a key component of the council's plan to support people living with dementia and unpaid carers in particular carers of people living with dementia as set out in the corporate plan for 2022-2026. Commissioning a new service will ensure that people with dementia, their carers and families are continuously supported in a timely manner.

2.3. The service will deliver three key components namely.

- (a) dementia advice and information service;
- (b) dementia support including support groups and activities; and
- (c) support for carers of people living with dementia.

3. Background to the Decision

3.1 The contract for Dementia Information and Support Services has been tendered following permission granted by Delegated Decisions on 19 September 2023.

4. Implications of the Decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	Y
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	Y
Communication	N	Procurement	Y
Energy Efficiency	N	Workforce	N

(a) Financial Implications

The annual budget of £0.135m per annum has been agreed.

(b) Legal Implications

The Council has a statutory obligation to support people suffering from dementia under the Care Act 2014. The Council also has a commitment to Milton Keynes under its corporate plan for 2022-2026 to promote independence in older age and increase support for those with dementia by becoming a dementia friendly city.

This report seeks approval and authorisation to award the contract for the Dementia Information and Support Services (DISS) to the successful and highest scoring bidder who returned the most advantageous tender following a competitive procurement process.

To note the award to the successful bidder is for a three (3) year term with an option to extend for a further two (2) year period.

The proposed award is a key decision, consequently the Council is expected to comply with the 28 days prior notice period as required by the Council's Constitution.

The Public Contracts Regulations (PCRs) 2015 apply to this procurement as the value of the contract is above the threshold for services/ supply contracts under the Light Touch Regime (LTR). It is expected that the procurement exercise was conducted in line with the Council's contract procedure rules and Regulations 74 to 77 of the PCRs.

By procuring the DISS via a competitive tender, the Council has demonstrated its commitment as a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness as required under the Local Government Act 1999.

The service department should consult with the Legal Services Department regarding the drafting and execution of the contract to deliver DISS.

(c) Human Rights, Equalities and Diversity Implications

The specification for the service will include explicit requirements fully covering the council's duties under equalities legislation and requiring the dementia support services compliant with the Equality Act. The new service will include monitoring to ensure that the service is accessible to all.

(d) Policies or Council Plan Implications

The Dementia service will support Milton Keynes stated outcome of promoting independence in older age and increase support for those with dementia.

5. Alternatives

5.1 Decommission the Service (Do Nothing [**not recommended**])

Decommissioning the service is not a viable option as there is an ongoing and increasing need for post dementia diagnosis support in the community. While the council does not have a statutory requirement to provide a community-based service, it is important of the council commitment to making Milton Keynes a Dementia friendly City.

5.2 Carry on with the Current Service, under a Grant Agreement

Due to the total amount, and duration that the service has been funded by grant agreement, this is not an option, under the current financial regulations.

5.3 Commence Open Tender (**recommended and process undertaken**)

It is recommended that a formal tender process to procure a new Dementia information and support service is undertaken. A new service specification will be developed based on best practice, feedback from consultations with stakeholders and alignment with other commissioned and local services.

6. Timetable for Implementation

6.1 New contract to commence April 2024.

List of Annexes

Annex Dementia Information and Advice Support Service Evaluation (Exempt)

List of Background Papers

None