


REPORT TO CABINET

9 September 2020

Subject:	Variation to the Community Living Support Networks Contract
Presenting Cabinet Member:	Councillor Farut Shaeen - Cabinet Member for Living Healthy Lives
Director:	Neil Cox Director – Prevention and Protection
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Cabinet Member Approval and Date:	Councillor Shaeen
Director Approval:	Neil Cox Director – Prevention and Protection
Reason for Urgency:	Urgency provisions do not apply
Exempt Information Ref:	Exemption provisions do not apply
Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):	No
Scrutiny Consultation Considered?	Scrutiny have not been consulted on the proposals
Contact Officer(s):	Justin Haywood Operations Manager for ASC Commissioning 0121 569 5504 Sheena Rafiq Commissioning Officer 0121 569 5689

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- Authorises the Director – Prevention and Protection to vary the Community Living Support Networks Contract to extend it by 12 months from 2 November 2020 to 1 November 2021.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for a variation to extend the Community Living Support Networks contract for one year from 2 November 2020 to 1 November 2021.
- 1.2 The current two-year contract is due to expire on 1 November 2020 and to enable the Council to complete a full review of service, Cabinet authorisation to extend this contract is required.

2 IMPLICATION FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 The Service aligns with the Sandwell Vision **2030** and contributes to the Council's ambitions:
 - Ambition 2 - Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.
 - Ambition 5 -Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 In September 2014, the Council commissioned a community living support networks service through open tender and KeyRing Support Living Networks (KeyRing) were chosen to provide this service.
- 3.2 The contract was awarded for two years for the period 2 November 2015 to 1st November 2017 with option to extend for a further year up to 1 November 2018
- 3.3 The Service was recommissioned for a further two years for the period 2 November 2018 to 1 November 2020 and KeyRing Living Support Networks was again successful in securing the contract.
- 3.4 The Council's intention had been to undertake a full review of floating support services during the latter part of this contract term and although this work has started, COVID19 has affected officers' ability to engage and consult with internal and external stakeholders sufficiently to complete this review and now require additional time to consider and implement any recommendations from this review.

- 3.5 KeyRing is a charitable provider, that has expertise in supporting vulnerable adults. KeyRing has developed an asset-based network approach that improves the quality of life for vulnerable adults. The service model is unique in Sandwell and it operates four Networks across Sandwell.
- 3.6 A Network comprises of ten adults, (known as Members) living within walking distance of each other. They are supported by a Community Connection Volunteer and Community Enablers. The Community Connection Volunteers are provided with rent-free accommodation by KeyRing in the Network area. They promote mutual support between Network Members and help Members build links with neighbours, community organisations and local organisations.
- 3.7 The Community Enablers visits each of our customers weekly as well as run three local hubs every week in the community. At these hubs, Members can drop in and interact with staff and their peers, for one-to-one support, participate in social activities, receive information from guest speakers or get help with a range of issues such as welfare benefits, financial advice, keeping safe and access to the “out of hours” service. Members are also supported with getting into education, employment or volunteering.
- 3.8 KeyRing provides focussed intervention at times of difficulty or transition, so that levels of support can be stepped up or down to meet individual needs with a greater emphasis on the right level of support at the right time that can respond to crisis situations as well as prevent them, enabling maximum independence. KeyRing specialises in preventing needs from escalating, and hence, requiring more costly care in the future.
- 3.9 The Service works in partnership with the Council, alerting Adult Social Care of any safeguarding issues the customers are facing. KeyRing’s out of hours call service provides wellbeing/welfare checks if needed at evenings, nights and weekends. In addition, customers may call into the out of hours service should they need emotional support or general advice, making Keyring a much more distinctive service. The Service also supports customers to identify their assets, become active citizens in their community, and steer customers on their pathway to independence.
- 3.10 Varying the contract to extend the contract for 1 year will enable vulnerable adults across Sandwell, to continue to receive support that enables them to live independently and contribute positively to their community whilst the review is completed.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 There are 4 Networks across the Borough. Each Network has up to 10 members, at any one time. Each Member has a minimum of 3 hours support a week and are supported for a maximum of 12 months.
- 4.2 KeyRing currently support 40 vulnerable adults who have varying needs aged 18 and over to sustain independent living in the community. The profile of current customers is mental health, older people, learning disabilities, physical disabilities and drugs and alcohol.
- 4.3 The current Service provision assists the Council to manage demand away from higher cost services by optimising service users' independence.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 Council officers have met regularly with KeyRing to monitor and evaluate the Service throughout the contract: it maintains a high-quality service delivery and offers flexibility of support to meet different and fluctuating levels of need that provides a responsive service for our customers.
- 5.2 In addition, KeyRing undertakes regular engagement with its Members and service users which shows they value the support they receive from the Service provided by KeyRing.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Several options have been considered which include allowing the contract to expire on 1 November 2020 and to retender the Service.
- 6.2 Ending the contract on 1st November 2020 will not provide sufficient time to find alternative support for the clients and given delays encountered due to COVID19 there is insufficient time to retender the Service informed by the results of the review of floating support services.
- 6.3 The option to request a variation to the Contract to extend by 12 months will ensure continuity of service for the service users and the Council sufficient time to complete the review of floating support services and therefore this is the option being recommended in this paper.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The annual revenue cost for the contract is £116,490 per year annum which will come from existing programme budgets and therefore there are no additional resource requirements.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Service to be provided under this contract is deemed Schedule 3 'light touch' service under the Public Contracts Regulations. As such, the Service should be procured by one of the competitive procurement routes following publication of a contract notice in the Official Journal if the contract value exceeds £633,540. For purposes of determining if the contract value exceeds this threshold the values of the extension and the current contract must be aggregated. As the value of the contract is below this figure, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 do not apply. However, the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules do apply.
- 8.2 The current Service plays a significant role in meeting the obligations of the Care Act 2014 in relation to the provision of services that can prevent, reduce and delay the onset/ worsening of needs. Therefore, extending the contract and investing earlier is paramount to prevent or delay costlier statutory interventions.
- 8.3 Corporate Procurement have been consulted on this contract and have advised that approval to vary this contract to extend the expiry date by twelve months should be sought in order to facilitate the necessary consultation that needs to be carried out before deciding upon the longer term future for this service.
- 8.4 Twelve months is considered sufficient to allow for the review process and then, if required, a procurement process in compliance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.
- 8.5 Section 15 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules allows for an exemption from following the requirements to undertake a competitive tender process in circumstances where it is not possible to do so.
- 8.6 The value of this contract is below the thresholds set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and publication of a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union is not required.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and there are no detrimental impacts to any of the protected groups as a result of this decision.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 Data protection is addressed within the Councils contract for the Service and the contractual terms stipulate GDPR.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 The Service has a positive impact on community cohesion and crime prevention as it is targeted at socially excluded vulnerable adults that support them to address issues such as worklessness, disability and mental ill health within a community-based approach.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 The expenditure in respect of this contract will come from existing programme budgets.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 The Service helps to ensure that vulnerable adults who are at risk of social exclusion can remain safe and independent within the community due to the support they receive. The Service deliverers against several Council priorities: improved wider health and wellbeing outcomes, addressing loneliness and isolation, improving financial inclusion and building resilient and independent communities.

13.2 This Service supports the Council's social value agenda as it assists Sandwell residents to achieve their full potential: it encourages a culture of self-help, mutual support and giving something back to the community through peer mentoring and volunteering. KeyRing currently engages 3 Community Volunteers and are in the process of recruiting 1 more Community Volunteer.

13.3 An independent review undertaken by Housing LIN in 2018, of the KeyRing model reported that Keyring Networks in 4 separate local authority areas demonstrated financial benefits from a 'typical' cluster of three Networks, supporting 30 people showed a return of £2.19 from every £1 invested.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There are no implications from this proposal on the Council's managed property or land.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 This Service forms part of Council's preventative agenda. The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance follows three key principles of prevention, reduction and delay. This Service has proven that by supporting the customers in the community, it has prevented, reduced or delayed them from needing more care by meeting a number of outcomes including:
- Customers maintain their tenancies;
 - Customers are supported to maximise their incomes;
 - Customers are supported to access employment or volunteering;
 - Customers supported to develop self helps skills and support each other.
- 15.2 If the Council was not able to extend this contract whilst the review of floating support was completed this may result in service users being left without support they need to live independently and may result in the need for more costly interventions from the Council or other public services in the future.
- 15.3 Authorising the variation to this contract to allow a 12 month extension will ensure that Services are maintained for service users until a full review has been completed and the recommendations from this implemented.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Care Act 2014.
The Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
The Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018 -2019.
Establishing the financial case for KeyRing – Housing LIN – August 2018.

Neil Cox
Director – Prevention and Protection