

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE****26 NOVEMBER 2024**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>RECOMMISSION OF THE EARLY INTERVENTION, PREVENTION AND CARERS SUPPORT SERVICE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF ADULTS, HEALTH, AND STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING</b>

**REPORT SUMMARY**

This report describes the co-production activity to procure and award the Early Intervention, Prevention and Carers Support service which is due to end on 1 March 2027 after the current contract extension. The report:

- Describes the co-production and co-design work that will be undertaken during the extension period to prepare new specification for a new service, and
- Requests that the award of the contract for the new service (in 2026) is delegated to the Director of Adults, Health, and Strategic Commissioning.

The report supports the following priorities from the Wirral Council Plan:

Theme 3 – Promoting Independence and Healthier Lives

The estimated costs of the new service will be £2,362,847 per year. It is anticipated that the new co-produced service will be commissioned for 5 years £11,814,235 between 2027 and 2032.

This decision affects all wards and is a key decision.

**RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the re-specification and commissioning of a new Early Intervention, Prevention and Carers Support Service using co-production and co-design processes with people who use the service, their families and supporters.
2. Delegate the carrying out of a procurement process and award of the contract for new service, to start in 2027, to the Director of Adults, Health, and Strategic Commissioning at an indicative cost of £2,362,847 per year.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 The Care Act 2014 requires Councils to promote the individual wellbeing of adults with care and support needs and Carers in their area by providing or arranging for the provision of prevention / early intervention services to avoid or delay the development of support needs, including specific duties to provide information and advice, safeguard adults at risk of abuse or neglect and support the transition to adulthood.
- 1.2 In 2021, the Council commissioned a Single Delivery Vehicle (SDV), Wirral Health and Wellbeing CIC which is a collaboration between several Wirral-based charities and social enterprises to deliver these services. This innovative approach incentivised local organisations to work collaboratively to deliver seamless support to adults with additional needs and Carers. The intention is to seek a similar SDV, supported by co-production and co-design in line with the Adult Social Care Co-Production Charter and Co-Production Strategy.
- 1.3 The current service covers the provision of the following services –
- Support for older people, including dementia support and dementia Carer support
  - Carer support services including the provision of training
  - Advocacy and Independent Visiting for Young Carers
  - Mental Health Support & Crisis Prevention
  - Support to people with long term conditions
  - Support for young Carers
  - Support for people with hearing or visual impairment
- 1.4 In our Market Position Statement, the Council committed to supporting voluntary community and faith sector providers to work together to offer support to vulnerable residents; to support to improve health and wellbeing and improve outcomes for individuals. Providers will promote the self-help model, building on an asset-based approach to community development, and support the Council's Care Act assessment approach model, "3 Conversations."
- 1.5 The Council has made a clear commitment to support adult Carers through its new Adult Carers Strategy 2023-2026 and this indicates the value it places on the contribution that Carers make in the community. These commitments extend to co-producing and codesigning services wherever possible.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Not re-commissioning an Early Intervention, Prevention and Carers Support service. If the Council did not have a service in place, this may mean that the Council would not meet its statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 to both provide services for people and support Carers.
- 2.2 These services also support adults on "the cusp of care" and support the prevention duty of the Council.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Council's responsibilities for prevention apply to all adults, including:
- People who do not have any current needs for care and support
  - Adults with needs for care and support, whether their needs are eligible and/or met by the local Council or not
  - Carers, including those who may be about to take on a caring role or who do not currently have any needs for support
  - Those with needs for support which may not be being met by the Council or other organisation
- 3.2 The term prevention or preventative measures can cover many different types of support, services, facilities or other resources. There is no one definition for what constitutes preventative activity, and this can range from wide-scale whole-population aimed at improving skills or functioning for one person or a particular group or lessening the impact of caring on a Carer's health and wellbeing. The Council is required to consider the range of options available, and how those different approaches could support the needs of its communities to meet the Care Act duties of prevent, reduce and delay and to promote individual wellbeing.
- 3.3 The existing service receives positive feedback and compliments. This provides confidence and assurance that the extension of the existing service in line with the current contract award, will continue to result in good outcomes for service users and their families until the commission of the new service offer. Performance is monitored by the commissioning, contracts and quality team of the Council.
- 3.4 Wirral Health & Wellbeing CIC, the provider of the Adult Carers Support Service is required to support and implement the Council's Carers Strategy and takes an active role in how it is monitored. Performance monitoring is done at contract management meetings, however, is also overseen by the Adult Carers Partnership Board.
- 3.5 The new Early Intervention, Prevention and Carers Support service will be co-produced with service users, their families and supporters in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014. The process will use all relevant and appropriate techniques outlined in the Adult Social Care Co-Production Charter and Co-Production Strategy (referenced in Background Papers).

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The current cost of the service is £2,213,517 per year. Estimates suggest that by 2027, the costs will have risen to £2,362,847 per year. This is based on a 2.2% per annum growth model to account for inflationary increases; the actual inflationary impact could differ from this assumed position, causing the estimated costs to decrease or increase, the procurement process will determine the actual costs to be incurred.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council has a duty under the Care Act to provide a range of services to meet assessed needs under the Care Act and the provision of the Early Intervention and Prevention service is one of the options available to people.
- 5.2 The commissioning and procurement activity will be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (albeit this will be replaced by the Procurement Act 2023 when it comes into force) and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The current contract extension option for 2 (1+1) additional years up to 1 March 2027 has been implemented at a cost of £4,427,034.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 There are no implications for staffing, ICT or Council assets.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 Any risks in relation to customer satisfaction are mitigated as high levels of satisfaction are reported by service users and their families on the current service offers from each element of the service.
- 7.2 Early intervention and prevention involves working with people at the earliest opportunity to prevent existing health and care needs from deteriorating, as well as supporting people to effectively manage any issues that they may be experiencing. Without these support services, peoples' conditions and circumstances could continue to deteriorate and there could be a significant impact on high cost, high impact services.
- 7.3 Without a Carers support service, Carers could experience additional challenges and fatigue which could lead to Carer breakdown. This could lead to the need for unplanned emergency provision to ensure the family's and the cared for person's welfare and wellbeing. There is also an increased risk that families would seek alternative, permanent care arrangements, creating demand on publicly funded services.
- 7.4 There is a risk that it will not be possible to commission the service at the current contract value, therefore an indicative contract value of £ 2,362,847 per year based on a 2.2% compound inflationary growth model and will be paid for from within existing resources (BCF, Public Health. Children and Young People), subject to the annual budget review process.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 During the period of contract extension, a new Early Intervention, Prevention and Carers Support service specification will be co-produced with service users, their families and supporters in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014. The process will use all relevant and appropriate techniques outlined in the Adult Social Care Co-Production Charter and Co-Production Strategy.

## 9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced in September 2024 and can be accessed by the following link: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

## 10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no additional environmental and climate implications relating to the new service. However, during its co-design, impact upon the environment will be considered as part of the service delivery.

## 11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Provision of the Early Intervention, Prevention and Carers Support service provides opportunities for local employment in the care sector and retains skills and knowledge within Wirral.

11.3 The service will be procured to be delivered within the Wirral boundaries and ensure social value for Wirral.

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## APPENDICES

N/A

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council Plan

Carers Strategy 2023-2026

Adult Social Care Market Position Statement 2024/25

Adult Social Care Co-Production Charter

Adult Social Care Co-Production Strategy.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in accordance with Section 2.2 a and b of its Terms of Reference, “adult social care matters (e.g., people aged 18 or over with eligible social care needs and their carers)” and “promoting choice and independence in the provision of all adult social care”.

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	