

**TITLE OF REPORT:** Framework for the support of people with a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum condition at home and in the community

**REPORT OF:** Sheila Lock, Interim Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning

---

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. The report asks Cabinet members to approve a plan to introduce a Framework for the provision of support at home and in the community for people with a learning disability and/or autism from 1 April 2017.

### **Background**

2. The Care Act places new requirements on care and support functions to promote wellbeing, identify services which support early intervention to prevent, reduce or delay the need for care and support.
3. In line with current financial constraints and budget proposals the introduction of a Framework will enable the Council to redesign and reinvest funding through a procurement process to achieve best value and reduce further demand for costly services.
4. As an integrated commissioning unit we are introducing new approaches to market shaping based on improving quality and reducing costs.
5. The provider market for support to people with a learning disability and autism has been static for a number of years. The majority of the services currently commissioned are not actively supporting people to achieve better outcomes.
6. At present there is no unified fee structure and contract terms and conditions vary. The cumulative spend on these services is currently £11.5 million.
7. The aim of the Framework will be to have a consolidated cost model and contract across all provision. It is also anticipated that the framework will attract new providers to the market and improve quality through an outcome focussed specification.
8. The scope of the Framework will include all current provision of Independent Supported Living schemes (ISLs), floating support services and children's short break provision.
9. It is an aspiration to support in-house providers to receive the same level of briefing, training and support, in relation to how to tender to be part of the Framework, appreciating the fact that using the commissioning approach taken (Dynamic

Purchasing System) new providers can be added at any point, subject to meeting specified criteria.

10. The specification has been co-produced with people who use services, health partners, key stakeholders, providers, the voluntary sector and Gateshead Council's Learning Disability Partnership Board. The 2016/17 budget includes savings of £1.325m from the recommissioning of learning disability care packages and recommissioning of independent support living schemes of which £0.333m is mitigated in year from use of reserves. There is a further saving of £2.375m proposed for 2017/18.

## **Proposal**

11. To introduce a Framework with a start date of 1 April 2017; a tender exercise will begin in December 2016 with a closing date in mid January 2017
12. To work to an outcome focussed specification which supports a progressive model of support.
13. That all current provision will transfer on to the Framework as well as any new business.
14. An all age approach is adopted by including the Children's Short Break Service.
15. That providers will be able to join the Framework throughout the duration of the contract subject to meeting specified criteria.

## **Recommendations**

16. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the approach being taken to implement a Framework by 1 April 2017.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To consolidate current costs and contracts for learning disability services and contribute to the delivery of the proposed savings.
- (ii) To support a move to a progressive model of support which has a focus on achieving positive outcomes for individuals.
- (iii) To attract new providers to the market in Gateshead.

---

**CONTACT:** Elizabeth Saunders

extension: 2353

### Policy Context

1. The Care Act (2014) part 1 focuses on Adult Social Care reform. Section 2(1) places a duty on the local authorities to provide a range of services that reduce needs for support for people with care needs and their informal carers, and contribute towards preventing or delaying the development of such needs.
2. The Care Act gives councils new obligations to shape the local care market to promote quality and choice.
3. The Government and leading organisations across Health and Social care are committed to transforming care for people with learning disabilities and/or autism who have a mental illness or whose behaviour challenges services. – Building the right support (Oct 2015).
4. The introduction of this Framework supports the policy direction of the Council Plan 2015-2020 in targeting our effort, with partners, to those in greatest need and in areas where greatest impact can be achieved.
5. The regional transformation programme strategy for people with learning disabilities and/or autism sets out the following:
  - Choice and control will be at the heart of ALL service planning and provision.
  - People will be identified and supported very early to improve their quality of life and outcomes.
  - Care and support services will always be well coordinated, planned jointly and appropriately resourced.
  - People will be supported to avoid crisis and if were to occur, crisis situations will be well managed.
  - People will be helped to stay out of trouble and receive appropriate support if they do enter the Criminal Justice System.
  - There will be a highly skilled, confident and value driven workforce who support people with learning disabilities.
  - People will always receive high quality, evidence based care in the most appropriate setting

### Background

6. In 2015/16 Gateshead Council directly supported 108 service users in ISL accommodation and carers with a learning disability at a total cost of £6.320m which does not include in-house ISL services.
7. Within specialist home care 94 people are supported by 12 providers at a cost of £1.540m.
8. At present there is no structured approach to fee setting or a standard contract; this has resulted in varying costs and terms and conditions across the board.
9. The 2016/17 budget includes savings of £1.325m from the recommissioning of learning disability care packages and recommissioning of independent support living

schemes of which £0.333m is mitigated in year from use of reserves. There is a further saving of £2.375m proposed for 2017/18. The saving is in part being delivered through review of support to individuals but the implementation of the Framework will assist in the delivery of the overall proposed savings.

## **Consultation**

10. We have carried out regional research with procurement and held commissioning forums.
11. We have engaged with providers to understand the current market and identify where improvements can be made to reflect current legislation and the Transforming Care agenda.
12. Consultation has been taken with the Learning Disability Partnership Board; further consultation with service users and families is planned.
13. The Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care have been consulted.
14. We have considered a film made by the Involvement Now Team (a self-advocacy group for people with a learning disability), which was commissioned by Public Health to inform the JSNA. This film has been presented at the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Learning Disability Partnership Board; views from the latter have been considered in the development of the specification.

## **Alternative Options**

15. The alternative is to remain as we are now; this is unrealistic if we are to work in line with current policy direction and financial arrangements.

## **Implications of Recommended Option**

16. **Resources:**
  - a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that the implementation of the Framework will be an enabler for the delivery of the proposed budget savings from the recommissioning of learning disability care packages and recommissioning of independent support living schemes
  - b) **Human Resources Implications** – For externally provided schemes the TUPE consultation is the responsibility of the outgoing and incoming employer. For Council employees, any TUPE implications will be dealt with as appropriate through liaison with those employees and their trade union representatives.
  - c) **Property Implications** - There are no property implications for the Council.
17. **Risk Management Implication** - The successful implementation of the Framework will help reduce pressure for more specialist support and interventions within both health and social care.

18. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – The Framework will support parity of esteem on addressing the needs of those with protected characteristics and those living in areas of social deprivation.
19. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – No impact
20. **Health Implications** – Through the specification the Framework will support accessibility to health services and appropriate care and treatment.
21. **Sustainability Implications** - The Framework will support provider sustainability, through improved costing and business models; this has a direct benefit of maintaining a stable market, with the opportunity to introduce new providers to Gateshead.
22. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising out of the report.
23. **Area and Ward Implications** – There are services present in all wards across Gateshead. It is hopeful that current providers are successful which will minimise any upset to existing support.
24. **Background Information**

The following background papers were used in preparing this report:

- Building the Right Support (October 2015)
- Transforming Care for People with Learning Disabilities – Next Steps (2015)
- Think Autism Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives, the strategy for adults with autism in England: an update (2014)
- The Care Act (2014)
- The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework
- Mental Capacity Act (2005)
- The Children Act (1989)
- Vision 2030
- Public Services (Social Value) Act (2012)