

## ***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care***

***Tuesday, 16 July 2024 at 9.00 am***

***Room 3 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND***

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#).  
However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

### ***Items for Decision***

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on 23 July 2024 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

**These proceedings are open to the public**



Martin Reeves  
Chief Executive

July 2024

*Committee Officer:*

**Committee Services**

*E-Mail: [committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)*

*Note: Date of next meeting: 17 September 2024*

**If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.**

## Items for Decision

### 1. Declarations of Interest

See guidance below.

### 2. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet Member's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

### 3. Petitions and Public Address

*Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.*

*Requests to speak must be submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting. Requests to speak should be sent to [committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk).*

*If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.*

### 4. Recommissioning of Learning Disability Respite Services (Pages 1 - 8)

*Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care*

*Forward Plan Ref: 2023/234*

*Contact: Bhavna Taank, Lead Commissioner – Live Well*

*([LiveWellCommissioning@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:LiveWellCommissioning@oxfordshire.gov.uk))*

**Report by Director for Adult Social Care (CMDASC4)**

**The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to:**

- a) **Agree the recommissioning and procurement of the Learning Disability Respite Service which has been co-designed with people who have lived experiences (experts by experience) and their carers and family members. The new service will be known as the Adult Short Breaks Service. We will invite providers to bid up to £1,203,500.00 per annum, with an additional payment internally to the properties team for the accommodation and annual property maintenance costs. This equates to a total budget of £1,303,500.00. The contract will be for five years with the option to extend for a further three years, commencing 01 April 2025.**

## **5. Style Acre (Henley-on-Thames) Learning Disability Supported Living extension (Pages 9 - 16)**

*Cabinet Member: Adult Social Care*

*Forward Plan Ref: 2024/167*

*Contact: Jordan Marsh, Commissioning Officer - Live Well  
([Jordan.Marsh@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jordan.Marsh@oxfordshire.gov.uk))*

### **Report by Director for Adult Social Care (CMDASC5)**

The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to

- a) **Agree to Style Acre supported living contract extension award using the maximum available contract extension provision within the contract, of 5 years (60 months). The hourly rate for the contract is £22.91, and annual uplifts will be in accordance with the contract price review mechanism. Predicated annual spend is £806,022.25.**

## **Councillors declaring interests**

### **General duty**

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

### **What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?**

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

### **Declaring an interest**

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

### **Members' Code of Conduct and public perception**

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

### **Members Code – Other registrable interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships
- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.

- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

### **Members Code – Non-registrable interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Divisions Affected – N/A**

## **DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

**16 JULY 2024**

### **RECOMMISSIONING OF LEARNING DISABILITY RESPITE SERVICE**

**Report by Corporate Director for Adult Social Care**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Agree the recommissioning and procurement of the Learning Disability Respite Service which has been co-designed with people who have lived experiences (experts by experience) and their carers and family members. The new service will be known as the Adult Short Breaks Service. We will invite providers to bid up to £1,203,500.00 per annum, with an additional payment internally to the properties team for the accommodation and annual property maintenance costs. This equates to a total budget of £1,303,500.00. The contract will be for five years with the option to extend for a further three years, commencing 01 April 2025.**

#### **Executive Summary**

1. The Adults Short Breaks service is planned, time-limited, or emergency care provided to support people with a learning disability and their carers/families with having a break from each other and/or a break from their caring role. Adult Short Breaks additionally provides an opportunity for individuals to socialise with their peers in their personal time.
2. Oxfordshire County Council (the council) fully funds this service for people who meet the specified criteria set out in the care act assessment, and the new service will be commissioned as a five plus three-year contract commencing 01 April 2025.
3. The Adult Short Breaks service has been co-designed/co-produced following engagement workshops with experts by experience, families/carers, and other stakeholders to enhance the delivery of the service so that it is person-centred and meets the diverse needs of the people accessing Adult Short Breaks and their carers/families.

4. The redesigned model includes Adult Short Breaks which are building-based delivered from three properties (14-15 beds) leased or owned by Oxfordshire County Council, with the option of flexibility for the provider to provide some daytime support and outreach as required.
5. The provision for emergency Adult Short Breaks is included within the delivery of the service. This will help to support with hospital admission avoidance in specific circumstances and people will be referred by Adult Social Care (ASC) Operational Teams.
6. The service will offer support to people with learning disabilities and more complex needs and co-existing conditions such as:
  - Mental health.
  - Physical disabilities including degenerative conditions, sensory impairment, and brain injury / neurological condition.
  - Autism.
  - People whose behaviour may challenge.
7. Oxfordshire County Council's Properties and Estates team will provide and oversee the properties where the building-based services will be delivered across the county, which includes any lease costs and annual maintenance. The utility and other costs related to the property will be covered by the provider as part of the block element of the contract. Oxfordshire County Council's Properties and Estates team will support with the branding and décor for the Adult Short Breaks service, and people who use the current Respite services will be encouraged to be involved and co-design this with the council.
8. The new service will move away from nights being allocated to individuals who qualify for Adult Short Breaks and will instead be allocated eligibility in hours. This approach will provide individuals and their carers more flexibility on how they have their Adult Short Breaks service delivered.
9. Decision Table

<b>Board</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Decision</b>
Adult Social Care Directorate Leadership Team	03 June 2024	Agreed
Commercial Board	18 June 2024	Agreed
Key Decision – Cabinet Member	16 July 2024	

## **Background**

10. Under the Care Act 2014, carers of adults and who have care and support needs are entitled to have a carer's assessment. The council is legally obliged to meet eligible needs. The council provides the Adult Short Breaks services as part of a person's assessed eligible needs, enabling them to have a break from their caring role. Dependent upon outcomes from a financial assessment, people receiving the care may be charged for the Adult Short Breaks service.



11. The current Respite Service is provided across four sites around Oxfordshire. The current five plus five-year contract commenced on 16 October 2018 and was due to expire on 15 October 2023. The contract was extended up to 31 March 2025, facilitating engagement and the co-designing of the new Adult Short Breaks service with experts by experience, families/carers, and other stakeholders.

12. The below table details where the current provision is located and the landlords that Brandon Trust (the current provider) leases their sites from:

Housing Provider	Property	Maximum No of People per Night
Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust	43 Saxon Way, Oxford	5 Respite Beds (+ 1 Emergency Bed)
Advance Housing & Support	April Cottage, Ducklington Road, Witney	4 Respite Beds
Advance Housing and Support	Woodview, 97 Wantage Road, Didcot	5 Respite Beds
Bromford Housing Group Limited	69 Neithrop Avenue, Banbury	5 Respite Beds

13. The Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on the delivery of the Respite service. The service's occupancy levels post-pandemic has not returned to the levels they were pre-pandemic. There was around a 43% decline in service usage post-pandemic, and the contributing factors included:

- Some people have chosen to have their respite support provided through their existing 'support bubbles,' which were formed during the pandemic.
- The current model does not meet the needs of people on a Direct Payment, as feedback received by the service highlights that taking a person-centred approach is key, to retaining these customers.
- People's living situation has changed and they may now be residing in formal supported accommodation.

14. The current Respite service has been running at around 60% occupancy. Based on the current occupancy levels for the Respite Service, predicted numbers for the future and the re-design of the Adult Short Breaks model it is indicated that the building-based service can be delivered across three sites in Oxfordshire.

15. The current Respite service has three allocated emergency beds. As part of the re-design, the new service will include emergency Adult Short Breaks across all sites in Oxfordshire.

16. The current allocation of Respite for individuals is in nights with hours of arriving and leaving restricted to set times. The new Adult Short Breaks service will move away from the allocation of nights to hours. This approach will provide individuals and their carers more flexibility on how they have their Adult Short Breaks service delivered.

## Corporate Policies and Priorities

17. The council's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 sets out the vision to lead positive change by working in partnership to make Oxfordshire a greener, fairer, and healthier county. The vision has nine priorities and two of the priorities are: 'Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents' and 'Support carers and the social care system.'
18. The Adult Short Breaks service will provide support to adults with a learning disability and/or physical disability and their carers who have identified care and support needs, to have a break from their caring role and help with maintaining their health and wellbeing.
19. The council's consultation and engagement strategy 2022 – 2025 outlines the approach, putting residents at the heart of decision-making to support strong, active, and inclusive communities. ensured that the people use the service, their parents, and carers, have their voices heard through supporting the co-produced design of the new service.
20. Additionally, through the council engaging with the local community, the council ensures that customers are being treated as a priority, by those who support them.
21. The new service creates the potential to provide more diverse support opportunities. This approach ensures the council continues to reduce the inequalities in accessing support and services, in Oxfordshire.

## Financial Implications

22. The budget for the new Adult Short Breaks Service is £1,303,500.00 per annum and features as part of the Live Well pooled budget. This would cover the rent for the properties, emergencies, and the cost-of-service delivery.
23. The contract is a partial block payment covering fixed costs as per point 5.4, and partial hourly rate payments based on care cost for activity delivered.
24. The leasing and annual maintenance costs for the properties for Adult Short Breaks Service, will be managed by Oxfordshire County Council's Properties and Estates Team at a value of £100,000.00.
25. The provider will be responsible for covering costs such as Gas, Electricity, Water, Rates, etc, from the contracts block element as defined within their tender bid.

### ***Finance Comments Checked by:***

Name: Stephen Rowles

Title: Strategic Finance Business Partner

([Stephen.Rowles@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.Rowles@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

## 6. Legal Implications

26. The statutory duty for the council to provide adult respite care is set out in the Care Act 2014 (“the Care Act”):
- 26.1.1. Section 2 of the Care Act recognises the carer's right to have their own needs assessed and supported. This includes access to respite care to maintain their own physical and mental well-being.
- 26.1.2. Section 18 of the Care Act states that local authorities must consider respite care when conducting a needs assessment for either the cared-for person or their carer. This means it is not automatically guaranteed, but they must actively evaluate its potential benefits and suitability.
- 26.1.3. Section 10 of the Care Act, requires local authorities to conduct an assessment, known as a “carer’s assessment”, where it identifies that a carer may have needs or requires support at that time or in the future.
- 26.1.4. Section 20 of the Care Act places a duty and power on local authorities to meet a carers’ needs for support where they qualify through an assessment for specific support.
- 26.1.5. In addition to the fulfilment of the specific duties set above the provision of respite care supports the fundamental principle of prevention under the Care Act by supporting carers to have a break from their caring role, to ensure that they are able to care for the people they support, for longer.
27. The contract for the new service must be procured competitively in accordance with the council’s Contract Procedure Rules which themselves ensure compliance with the Public Contract Procurement Regulations 2015.

### ***Legal Comments Checked by:***

Name – Jonathan Pool

Title –Solicitor

Email – [jonathan@pool@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan@pool@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Staff Implications

28. There is no new or additional impact on the council’s workforce as a result of the recommendation.
29. The successful bidder for the new Adult Short Breaks service will be required to progress their responsibility for the TUPE management arrangements of staff who work in the current Respite Services, through the mobilisation stage of the implementation period.

30. The TUPE arrangements have been jointly progressed between Procurement, Commissioners, and the Service Provider, prior to publishing the tender documentation.

## **Equality & Inclusion Implications**

31. No evidence has been identified to suggest, that by the council approving this recommendation, will lead to a negative impact on the community, environment, or its strategic partners within Oxfordshire.

## **Sustainability Implications**

32. Drawing upon the valuable feedback received through the stakeholder engagement and in addition from future insights from benchmarking exercise, this has resulted in a detailed specification being developed which will provide a better tailored service with a significantly wider reach and greater sustainability for the future of this provision.

## **Risk Management**

33. By approving the recommendation within this paper, it promotes more benefits than drawbacks.
  - 33.1.1 It provides the ability to complete a robust redesign of a new Respite model with uncompromised access due to reduced financial instability.
  - 33.1.2 A reduction in the drawbacks and better mitigation of long-term risk through following a more thoughtful process in design.
  - 33.1.3 This will maintaining key relations with a key and large strategic local partner delivering social care services in Oxfordshire.

## **Consultations**

34. Through engagement workshops, feedback on the current Respite service was gathered and the model for the new Adult Short Breaks service was co-designed/co-produced.
35. Participants included experts by experience who access Oxfordshire Family Support Network (OxFSN) and My Life My Choice (MLMC), current staff of the Respite service, families/carers and people who currently use the Respite Service.
  - 35.2.1 Engagement events informed existing users about future commissioning plans and offered them the opportunity to share their experiences: what worked well, what could be improved, and their suggestions for a redesigned service.

35.2.2 The resulting feedback covered both positive aspects of the current service, areas requiring improvement, and innovative elements which have been included in the redesign of the Adult Short Breaks Service.

Karen Fuller  
Director for Adult Social Care

Annex: Nil

Background papers: Nil

[Other Documents:] Nil

Contact Officer: Bhavna Taank  
Lead Commissioner – Live Well  
[LiveWellCommissioning@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:LiveWellCommissioning@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**July 2024**

This page is intentionally left blank

## Divisions Affected –

### **DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

**16 JULY 2024**

### **Learning Disability and Autism Supported Living contract extension**

### **Report by Director for Adult Social Care**

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to

- a) **Agree to Style Acre supported living contract extension award using the maximum available contract extension provision within the contract, of 5 years (60 months). The hourly rate for the contract is £22.91, and annual uplifts will be in accordance with the contract price review mechanism. Predicated annual spend is £806,022.25.**

## **Executive Summary**

1. A range of supported living contracts exist within the Council to ensure quality of life standards for people whose care and support needs require more specialist services. These contracts enable people to live as independently as possible within Oxfordshire.
2. The provision to extend supported living contracts allows consistency of support for individuals who require ongoing support and ensures efficiency of procurement activity for the Council to extend, where the contract is meeting an acceptable quality standard alongside supporting market sustainability.
3. Where a contract for supported living has reached its maximum extension or it is not appropriate to extend and there is a continued need for individual's ongoing support a new replacement contract will be required.

## **Background**

4. The requirement to extend contracts for supported living enables Oxfordshire County Council to meet people's needs with a Learning Disability and / or Autism as identified by a Care Act 2014 Assessment
5. This is in line with the vision of Oxfordshire County Council (The Council) to provide adult social care for our residents, enabling everyone to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible. The Council seeks to provide residents good quality support that will have a positive impact on their lives.
6. The decision to extend the Style Acre, Henley-on-Thames contract (as identified in Annex 1) was agreed by the departmental leadership team on 28th May 2024, with an hourly rate of £22.91 as outlined in Annex 1. This price point has been market tested with previous procurement activity through the Live Well Supported Services (Adults) Framework.

## **Governance and Decision Making**

7. Decision making and recommendations to date have been via papers to Adult Social Care Directorate Leadership Team (ASC DLT), where the recommendation for this paper has been agreed.

## **Procurement Process**

8. For the extension of this Style Acre contract (see Annex 1), procurement will provide written notice to the contracted provider of the contract extension to meet the terms of the existing agreement.
9. The price for the contract extension will be maintained at a market sustainable level to reflect the level of complexity of the contract and support required. The hourly rate for 24/25 has already been set at £22.91. This hourly rate will be uplifted as per the council's uplift process for 25/26 onwards annually.

## User and Family Involvement

10. For the contract extension to be considered, feedback regarding contract performance was obtained through the Council's contract monitoring process, including experts by experience who use support and family members through quality checker questionnaires and interviews.



## **Council Priorities & Policies**

11. The prevention and relief of homelessness and achievement and maintenance of independent living continues to be a priority for Oxfordshire County Council. This Supported Living contract extension contributes to this priority.
12. Accommodation based support services adopts a person-centred and outcomes focused approach to secure and maintain a sustainable housing tenancy with the opportunity to maximise independence and potentially step down / move on as assessed.

## **Financial Implications**

### Supported Living Contract Costs

1. Financial assumptions have been made with the supported living contracts in terms of support delivery and existing hours of support individuals require. The supported living contracts are set up with core shared hours and 1 to 1 hours that can increase or decrease dependant on individual needs. Estimates on the level of core hours of support and the 1:1 hours have been predicted from previous spend on existing contracts including input from Social Workers, Brokerage and Commissioning. Care Act assessments will determine the level of support each person requires. Models to determine how to maximise the core support within and between properties (core and cluster) has been developed for each scheme.

### Hourly Rates & Uplifts

2. The price point for the contract extension will be set based on the existing contract and review of needs to be met by Adult Social Care, any uplift will be in accordance with an annual review mechanism considering inflationary changes, changes to National Minimum Wage and the National Living Wage and local market factors in Oxfordshire.

Finance Comments Checked by;  
Name – Stephen Rowles  
Title – Finance Business Partner  
Email – [Stephen.rowles@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.rowles@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Legal Implications**

3. The statutory duty for the Council to provide these services is set out at paragraph 4 above.

## Contract Extension – Style Acre

4. This proposed contract extension is an option which was part of the original contract. It is not therefore a modification under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and does not require consideration under the modification rules governed by those regulations.

Legal Comments Checked by;

Name – Jonathan Pool

Title –Solicitor

Email – [jonathan@pool@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan@pool@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Staff Implications**

5. The contract extension will be delivered by Style Acre, and therefore does not involve services or staff directly provided by the Council. Therefore, there is no impact on the Council’s workforce as a result of these recommendations.

## **Equality & Inclusion Implications**

6. This supported living contract is designed to meet the specific needs of people with a learning disability, complex health, and physical disabilities. The expectation of care providers is to deliver person centred support which ensures:
  - a Provision of in-county accommodation so people with Care Act needs are not moved away from their networks.
  - b The least restrictive care to support greater independence for people. People are integrated into their local communities, with their individual needs and preference are met.
  - c Their cultural and religious beliefs are supported to be observed, specific dietary requirements.
  - d People can become economically sufficient by supporting people to access training, learning, voluntary and employment opportunities.
  - e People are supported to have better access to universal services.
  - f Competition in the market to support people to have choice in their care provider.
7. This Supported Living contract includes the requirement for the provider to have an Equalities Policy. Providers are required to self-certify that their organisation has an active Equality & Diversity Policy in keeping with the Equality Act 2010 (a requirement under the Live Well Supported Services Adults Framework).

**The Quality & Improvement Team carry out regular monitoring of services and include equality items in their reviews.**

8. The Care Act assessment and subsequent support planning will be done in conjunction with the individual, their family and support network to ensure the support is tailored to their specific needs and is made clear to the care provider. Routine reviews of care alongside contract monitoring reports will enable the Council to monitor how the provider is upholding.

## **Sustainability Implications**

9. At present a Climate / Environmental Policy is not required by providers.

### Recruitment

10. Recruitment for care and support mostly attracts a local workforce, therefore limiting the amount of extensive travel time.

### Staff Travel

11. This supported living contract is for existing accommodation-based services. These are static workplaces unlike domiciliary care calls to multiple locations.
12. People living in supported living are unlikely to attend day centres as support is generally provided by the main supported living contract and therefore are less likely to access vehicles which transport people to and from the day services. Instead within the course of supporting someone staff will be required to travel alongside the individual often on public transport both for accessing the community and for travel training where this is part of an individual's support plan.

### Staff Training

31. Many of the support providers contracted offer training online so their staff are not having to travel.

### Medical & Health Appointments

32. Where possible support staff will work with an individual to access online appointments. If a face-to-face appointment is required then staff will use public transport, unless this is not possible e.g. risks posed to travel.

## Shopping

33. Where possible support staff will work with an individual to access their shopping online. Where it is practical to do so they will carry out online shopping for several people to limit the number of deliveries. Where online shopping is not possible staff will endeavour to use public transport unless it is unsafe to do so.

## **Risk Management**

### Risks in agreeing this recommendation.

34. There are no risks to this recommendation. The Recommendation to extend the Style Acre contract would enable qualified providers to deliver the level of quality support required to support people with a disability or more complex and specialist needs within their local communities in Oxfordshire.

### Risk in not agreeing this recommendation.

35. Not agreeing the recommendation to extend the contract would have a negative impact on the continuity of services and contractual arrangements. It may also lead to less effective market shaping and impact on the Council's compliance with the new CQC assurance regime and the Care Act (2014).

## **Consultations**

36. People who use support and family members have already been involved in feeding back on quality through quality monitoring processes. Style Acre, Quality Improvement, and the Social Work teams have also had the opportunity to feedback on the quality of the existing provision.

**Karen Fuller**  
**Director for Adult Social Care**

### **Contact Officer:**

Name – Sharon Paterson  
Title – Commissioning Manager, HESC – Live Well  
Email – [sharon.paterson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.paterson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

July 2024

**Annex 1 - Contract extension for Style Acre**

Number	Title	Description	Contract Length	Hourly rate	Predicted Annual Value
1	Style Acre	<b>Contract extension</b> Learning disability supported living.	60-month extension	£22.91	£806,022.25

This page is intentionally left blank