

## **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;  
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## **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;

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## **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**

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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