

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 17 September 2026 commencing at 9.00 am and finishing at 9:20 am

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Rebekah Fletcher– in the Chair

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor James Robertshaw

Officers: Sharon Paterson (Strategic Commissioner); Isabel Rockingham (Head of Joint Commissioning LC Age Well); Sakina Bi Commissioning Manager Support); Derek Gravett-Smith (Strategic Commissioner, Karen Fuller (Director Adult Social Care) and Mohamed Cassimjee (Democratic Services Officer)

The Cabinet Member considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

41/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda No. 1/25)

There were none received.

42/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda No. 2/25)

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2026 were confirmed by the Chair as a correct record.

43/25 QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS (Agenda No. 3/25)

There were none received.

44/25 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS (Agenda No. 4/25)

There were none received.

45/25 SAFE SPACE HOST PROVIDER CONTRACT (Agenda No. 5/25)

The Cabinet Member considered the Safe Space Host Provider contract which provided outreach and short stay support for adults with a learning disability and autistic adults, including preventative and crisis support.

The provision was intended to offer an alternative to admission or detention under the Mental Health Act for individuals at risk. The model had been developed in partnership with the Integrated Care Board and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, with funding split equally between partners. The contract was proposed for seven years, with a break clause at year four and a total contract value of £5,163,733.26. The proposal was aligned to a capital build programme.

It was indicated that the Safe Space model would use preventative planning, outreach support and regular system oversight to keep stays short, least restrictive and focused on supporting people back into appropriate settings.

Resolved to:

- a. Agree to tender a new Safe Space Host Provider contract through a mini-competition using the Council's Live Well Supported Services Framework Lot 2.**
- b. Delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care to award and enter into the contract following completion of the procurement process.**
- c. Delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance, to negotiate and agree the required variation to the existing Section 75 Agreement between Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Valley Integrated Care Board to formalise the agreed partner funding and associated governance arrangements for the Safe Space service.**
- d. Note that local government reorganisation is a managed dependency and will be addressed through legal, finance, procurement, governance, contract and transition planning before contract award and mobilisation.**

46/25 CARE HOME FRAMEWORK EXTENSION

(Agenda No. 6/25)

The Cabinet Member considered the report on the extension of the Care Home (Light Touch) Framework to 30 June 2029 and the extension of the Short Stay Hub Bed call-off contracts to 30 June 2029.

The Care Home Framework provided a single, integrated route for sourcing residential and nursing care home placements funded by Adult Social Care and NHS Continuing Healthcare. Extending the framework was recommended because it was working effectively, provided continuity and value for money, reduced reliance on

spot purchasing and avoided the need for a major procurement exercise during Local Government Reorganisation.

It was indicated that the framework had been co-designed with health partners, providers and operational teams, had incorporated resident feedback, improved care standards and reduced negotiation time through fixed-fee arrangements.

Resolved to:

- a. Approve the extension of the Care Home (Light Touch) Framework to 30th June 2029.**
- b. Approve the extension of the call-off contracts for Short Stay Hub beds (SSHB) to 30th June 2029.**

47/25 LIVE WELL AT HOME FRAMEWORK EXTENSION

(Agenda No. 7/25)

The Cabinet Member considered the report which sought to extend the current Live Well at Home framework to 31 March 2028 and to determine the next steps for the future commissioning route for home care and reablement services. The extension was a precautionary and proportionate step to protect continuity of care while the Council reviewed the implications of Local Government Reorganisation for future service arrangements.

It was confirmed that the proposed one-year extension was considered sufficient because zoning modelling had already begun and the procurement process was expected to restart at the end of the year or early the following year. Cllr Fletcher stated that, although she was not generally keen on extending arrangements, she recognised the need in this case, due to the impact of local government reorganisation and the need to maintain continuity of care and lawful sourcing of services.

Resolved to:

- a) Note the recommendations and background from the previous Cabinet paper of 16 June 2026, as set out in Annex 1.**
- b) Note that, since that decision, the Council has received the Government's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) decision for Oxfordshire. This has implications for the proposed Staying Well at Home (SWAH) model, including future service design, demand, provider capacity, lot structure and geographical zones. As the LGR decision was published in the very early stages of the SWAH procurement, the procurement has been paused so that the Council can review the available options and determine the most appropriate future commissioning route.**
- c) Approve the extension of the current Live Well at Home (LWAH) framework to 31 March 2028, in accordance with the existing contractual extension**

provisions, to maintain continuity of care and ensure continued lawful sourcing of domiciliary care and reablement services beyond 31 March 2027.

- d) Approve the decision to start the SWAH procurement process as per key decision made on 16 June 2026 but with a later timetable. The timetable and award of framework agreement to be delegated to the Director of Adult Social care for approval.**

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2026