

BRIEFING PAPER

Extra Care Contract Extension



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is recommended to extend the current Extra Care Housing (ECH) contract, as it is due to expire on 31/03/2024. Extending the contract for an additional 4 months will enable the procurement of a new service for the city to be concluded, with a new specification and delivery model. This has included commissioners visiting the current schemes to gather the views and feedback of those using services.

The new service will align with our Market Sustainability Plan and begin the process of delivering adult care services linked to a locality model. The overarching aim is to ensure that we have a sustainable and cohesive model for working, fostering collaborative partnerships for the future.

2. BACKGROUND

Plymouth City Council currently spends approximately £3.4m per annum on care and support in 7 ECH schemes across the City for people over 55 years of age. Within the ECH schemes, there are 4 Pathway Flats managed by Plymouth City Council which offer a short-term placement to people who may need a trial prior to signing up for a tenancy with the housing provider.

The contract has not been out to competitive tender since 2013.

The Extra Care service for older people supports the following outcomes:

- People are supported to continue to live independently;
- People are supported individually so that they can lead as natural and independent a life as possible behind the privacy of their own door;
- People with complex needs associated with dementia and physical and mental disability receive skilled services that help them maintain and enjoy an active life;
- A more independent lifestyle may be facilitated for some, whereas the provision of a continually supportive environment will be a key factor for others;
- People are supported to achieve their desired level of involvement with their local community and the service will work collaboratively with the Social Inclusion service to this aim;
- People are supported to maintain or gain independent living skills following periods of illness and so prevent hospital admission or readmission;
- People are supported to evaluate and manage their own risk and to establish their preferred priorities;
- People passing through the Pathways flats (where applicable) will receive individualised care and support with the aim of achieving a positive outcome for continued independent living;
- The promotion and facilitation of flexible telecare solutions to achieve a wide range of responses to meeting people's needs;
- The allocation of accommodation and the movement of people into/out of the scheme are efficiently and effectively handled and the service will work in partnership with the housing providers and social inclusion provider(s) to achieve this;
- Good partnership working with the Housing Provider and Social Inclusion Services will be achieved to ensure a fully utilised, safe and well-coordinated environment where people enjoy living.

In July 2023 Plymouth City Council Cabinet approved a recommendation to procure a new Extra Care service for the city. The procurement will also include the Social Inclusion offer to the Extra Care schemes (contracted separately). Since then work has been ongoing to design the new service approach and specification.

It is intended for the new service to begin on the 1st August 2024, following the conclusion of the procurement process. In July 2023 Cabinet also approved delegated authority to the Strategic Director for People to make the contract award decision, and other relevant decisions in relation to this contract where authority to do so is not already delegated to officers.