PLUSS CONTRACT EXTENSION BRIEFING

Strategic Cooperative Commissioning

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

Plymouth City Council contracts with 10 providers to deliver a comprehensive day service for adults with eligible social care needs.

The services are targeted at people with an eligible care need, that, with the right support enables them to be as independent as possible, to be kept safe, and to provide support that is least restrictive and allows vulnerable people to live ordinary lives. These services help meet the Council's duty under the Care Act to prevent and reduce escalation of needs, promote individual, promote equality and diversity in services, and to safeguard adults at risk of abuse or neglect. They help to keep people in their communities and not needing high end care packages.

The breadth of providers ensures we provide choice but just as importantly we deliver services based around needs such as dementia support, acquired brain injury, learning disability, physical disability, loneliness, and social isolation. Ensuring people can access services that meet their needs.

The Plymouth plan has key objectives for the City, including good quality, sustainable health and wellbeing services for people who need them, when they need them; the day services support this for our vulnerable citizens with social care needs. Day services encourage people to be in their communities

PLUSS

Across the services activities offered include traditional day centres, days out in the community, sporting activities, life skills, cooking, days at Poole Farm, arts & crafts, and enabling support. The day service we contract from PLUSS is focussed on employability, people using the service are supported to develop their independence and employability skills. Having spent some time with the people accessing the service it is clear they value it greatly and enjoy the time they spend there. They have been able to develop strong friendships that carry over to their social lives. There are accounts on people going on to take on volunteer roles in charity shops, working for Fair Share or moving into project search and supported internships.

The contract was awarded for two years from April 2023 to March 2025 with the intention to go to a competitive tender to start new contracts from April 2025. However, it is clear there is a need to review the wider day services offer. The proposal is to extend the existing day services until October 2026 to allow for a complete review and recommissioning of all day services.

The Pluss service currently supports 61 people accessing 826 hours of support per week, the majority of which attend 2 or 3 days a week.

Days per week	Number attending
1	11
2	28
3	17
4	3
5	2
Total	61

PROPOSAL

The service is currently procured on a block contract, The proposal to extend the contact for 20 months will cost £620,611 (an equivalent annual value of £372,367). The value is based on a session cost of £63.65 per person per session for 112.5 sessions per week. The service consistently delivers above the value with an average weekly attendance of 121 sessions per week at no additional cost.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives to not extending the contract

Allow contract to end	This would leave 61 vulnerable adults without support, there is not capacity within the wider day opportunities offer to absorb this number of people. The Council would fail in its statutory duty to meet the needs of these people.
Retender the service	The service delivered by PLUSS is part of the wider day opportunities service and cannot be considered in isolation. The full day service offer needs to be recommissioned as a whole, to ensure a holistic offer that meets needs whilst achieving value for money. During the 20 months we will consult with people using the services, providers, social workers and other stakeholders to co-design and coproduce something new.