

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	Thursday 3 November 2022
Subject:	Sefton Carers Centre		
Report of:	Director of Social Care and Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	Y	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	N		

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to recommend implementing a 2-year integrated contract with Sefton Carers Centre from 1st April 2023, that incorporates all commissioned activity detailed within this report, whilst we undertake an in-depth strategic review of the service.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (1) Authorise the Executive Director of Adult Social Care who is also the NHS Place Director for Sefton to implement a 2-year integrated contract with Sefton Carers Centre from 1st April 2023, that incorporates all commissioned activity within the current NHS and Council budget available, whilst we undertake an in-depth strategic review of the service.
- (2) Note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet detailing the findings of the strategic review once finalised.
- (3) Delegate the decision with regards to any variance of the existing contract/contract value, noting that this is within the current NHS and Council budget available, to the Director of Adult Social Care and NHS Director of Sefton in consultation with the Executive Director of People, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing in the event that the service review highlights additional activity to be delivered to ensure compliance with our statutory obligations.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The implementation of a 2-year contract bringing together the funding streams will enable time and capacity to complete a strategic review of the service offer for carers in Sefton which will inform longer term recommendations and also reflects the priority to

provide integrated Social Care and Health services in Sefton. The review will involve carers and families.

The review of the service will be underpinned by Sefton’s Carers Strategy for the next 5 years and reflects the aims and vision of the Council’s New Realities Agreement which outlines our commitment to working in partnership with the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

To do nothing in terms of maintaining the current service delivery arrangements has been considered, but on the basis of being able to develop services further and achieve greater system wide efficiencies, as well as improved experiences for carer’s this option is not recommended.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

Revenue costs will be met from within existing Council and ICB budgets by way of a pooled budget arrangement. The strategic review will be completed within the life of the contract extension and any impact on contract value as a result of the review will be considered by Council should it not be contained within the current budget across Children Services, Communities and Adult Social Care.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no capital costs for the Council associated with this service.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
The cost of provision is currently within the Council and Sefton ICB baseline budget however, this may require review following completion of the service review.	
Legal Implications:	
Care Act 2014 Children and Families Act 2014 The Public Procurement (Amendment etc Regulations) (EU Exit) 2020 introduced to amend Public Contract Regulations 2015.	
Equality Implications:	
There are no identified equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Y
Have a neutral impact	N

Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y

The service will be monitored against how their delivery contributes towards Social Value, which includes green initiatives. The service will be able to develop and build upon existing ways of working to positively contribute to the Climate Change Emergency.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: The service provides free advice and guidance, emotional and practical support, training, and a range of holistic therapies for unpaid carers living in Sefton.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The service empowers people by providing guidance, practical support and training which enables them to fulfil their role as carers, thereby improving confidence and resilience.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The service ensures that individuals are supported to engage in the planning and assessment of their health and care needs.
Place – leadership and influencer: The establishment of an integrated contract will ensure that there is a place-based approach to care and support services for Carer's across Sefton.
Drivers of change and reform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration – national and local context linked to the white paper. • Market Position Statement for Sefton
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener: The service will be monitored against how their service delivery contributes towards social value, which includes green initiatives.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6982/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5182/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

All key stakeholders have been consulted and further consultation will take place to inform and develop the service specification following completion of the review.

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Sefton Carers Centre is a registered charity which provides free advice and guidance, emotional and practical support, training, and a range of holistic therapies for unpaid carers living in Sefton.
- 1.2 A carer is someone of any age who provides unpaid support to family or friends who could not manage with this help. This could be caring for a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled or has mental health or substance misuse problems.
- 1.3 The Care Act 2014, places a duty on Local Authorities to promote individual wellbeing, aims to prevent, reduce, or delay the need for care and support to put individuals in control of their lives. It also stipulates that people who look after an adult, relative or friend with care needs have the same right to an assessment and support as the people they care for.
- 1.4 In Sefton, it is recognised that carers, and the people they care for, are valued members of our communities and that carers provide invaluable care and support to their families, and within local communities.

2. Current Commissioned Services

- 2.1 At present, Sefton Carers Centre is commissioned by Adult Social Care, Communities and Sefton NHS ICB (Integrated Care Board formerly Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups) to deliver the following services:
- 2.2 Direct Payments
 - 2.2.1 Sefton Carers Centre’s Direct Payment Service provides a single point of contact for information, advice, and support for Adult & Children’s Social

Care direct payments in Sefton. The service delivers targeted information and advice to existing and new recipients, their families, and carers. The service enables and empowers people to take control and manage their care and support.

2.2.2 The service provides the following:

- A single point of contact for information, advice and support relating to Direct Payments.
- Supports Direct Payment recipients with managing, planning, payroll, employment, training, and Direct Payment account monitoring to encourage confidence to self-manage care and support.
- Delivers a service that enables Direct Payment recipients to live independently.
- Signposts to other in-house services delivered by Sefton Carers Centre and other services to enhance a holistic whole family approach.
- Works with the Council to implement any improvements in systems and processes around Direct Payments.
- Supports consultations and enables Direct Payment recipients, their families, and Carers to have a voice in the development of the service.
- Supports recipients or representatives with information, advice, and guidance to ensure decisions made to support independent living are realistic and meet the needs identified in the support plan.
- Ensures that recipients if needed are supported to employ a Personal Assistant safely, effectively and in a timely manner.
- Offers all Direct Payment recipients training to support the management of their direct payment.
- Ensures all recipients understand and comply with the Direct Payment agreement, understand their support plan and how payments will be made in respect of this plan.
- A full payroll service which is available to all recipients that provides service users with access to Payroll and Advisors to meet all aspects of direct payments provision.

2.3 Carers Support Services

2.3.1 Sefton Carers Centre manages Carers Support at Home payments which provide Carers with funding for up to 25 hrs of Care and Support Services annually upon completion of an Adult Social Care Assessment.

2.3.2 Sefton Carers Centre processes specific one-off payments to Carers. These costs are identified during a Carers Assessment and based on evidence of need. This is recorded in the Carers Support Plan and presented to Sefton Council through the authorisation process, who will approve as appropriate. These one-off payments can only be made once in a 12-month period.

2.4 Carers Training

2.4.1 The Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004 as well as the Care Act 2014, places a duty on Local Authorities to take into account Carers needs in relation to work, life-long learning and leisure. To assist the Council in its obligations to carers, Sefton Carers Centre provides more flexibility by delivering courses in response to carers identified needs and availability, provides recreational courses to meet the needs of older carers and those carers who are unable to return to the labour market, whilst also providing “Springboard” training such as confidence building, basic skills and introduction to I.T. for those carers wishing to return to education or the workplace

2.5 Young Carers Service (16-24)

2.5.1 The Care Act 2014 places a duty on local authorities to assess young carers before they turn 18, so that they have the information they need to plan for their future. This is referred to as a transition assessment. Working with a young carer to prepare them for their transition assessment is important, particularly when they are considering options at school/college or if there are particular pressures at home.

2.5.2 Sefton Young Carers Support Service which is part of the Sefton Carers Centre work to support a young person to access relevant information and services in order to support the successful transition into adult life as a Carer.

2.6 Parent Carer Support

2.6.1 Sefton Carers centre provide support for Carers who care for a child or young person who is under 18yrs and has a physical disability, learning disability or emotional/behavioural condition, either diagnosed or undiagnosed. They will support Parent Carers with information, advice, and guidance to enhance their knowledge and emotional wellbeing.

2.6.2 The Children’s and Families Act 2014 states that if you are a Parent Carer of a child with a disability and have parental responsibility, you have the right to request a Parent Carer needs assessment.

The assessment will consider:

- The Individual needs of a parent carer
- Things that could make looking after a child easier
- The well-being of the Parent Carer
- The need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child
- The need to safeguard and promote the welfare of any other children that they care for

The service provides the following:

- Offers and completes Carers Assessments and Reassessments with Parent Carers in line with current legislation.
- Provides Parent Carers with a point of contact for information, advice and support relating to their caring role and to interpret current legislation and inform them of their rights.
- Signposts Parent Carers to in-house services delivered by Sefton Carers Centre to support emotional and financial wellbeing and to enhance a holistic whole family approach.
- Signposts Parent Carers to appropriate services in Health, Social Care, Education and the VCF sector as appropriate.
- Offers low level advocacy to Parent Carers to support their autonomy in accessing services.
- Works with Children's Services and Aiming High to support the planning and co-ordination of a dedicated needs led provision for disabled children aged 0-18 yrs which meets the Council's statutory obligations.
- Supports consultations and enables Carers to have a voice in the development of services.
- Supports older Parent Carers in regard to future planning and transition to adult services
- Identifies and applies for external funding which will support the needs of Parent Carers.
- Promotes multi agency working partnerships by attending events and meetings.
- Provides support groups for Parent Carers to give advice, support, and opportunities to develop knowledge regarding services appropriate to their caring roles
- Works with key organisations such as Parent Carer Forum to support parent Carers with access to peer support, information, and events.

- Provides Parent Carer Voice & Support groups to enable Carers to have input and understanding on local and national legislation and services which impact on parent Carers.

2.7 Parent Carer Advocacy

2.7.1 Sefton Carers Centre provides Parent Carer Advocacy to support Parent Carers in pursuing their rights and access to services and to ensure that their needs are met.

2.8 All of the services detailed above are commissioned under three separate contracts/service specifications and all have differing end dates. By implementing a 2-year integrated contract with Sefton Carers Centre, as from the 1st April 2023, this will enable Sefton Council and partners to incorporate all commissioned activity into one integrated contract, underpinned by a pooled budget arrangement, that will assist with the review and the development of an all-age service specification going forward. The financial impact of the 2-year contract will be contained within the current financial resources and budget allocation.

2.9 The established Carer's Strategy group will co-produce a 5-year strategy which will inform the development of an all-age service specification and any new proposed models of support, which will be underpinned by the Council's Digital and Tecs Strategy.

2.10 As part of the new contract arrangements, a performance management framework will also be developed, which will seek to address the performance of the service in order to achieve top quartile position in national benchmarking ASCOF.

2.11 All performance reports will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The Council has a statutory duty as defined by the Care Act 2014, and the Children and Families Act 2014, to provide care and support services for carers within Sefton.

3.2 The proposed implementation of a 2-year integrated contract, which will be subject to an in-depth strategic review, represents a further commitment between social care and health to provide integrated services.

3.3 Cabinet is asked to:

3.3.1 Authorise the Executive Director of Adult Social Care who is also the NHS Place Director for Sefton to implement a 2-year integrated contract with Sefton Carers Centre from 1st April 2023, that incorporates all commissioned activity within the current NHS and Council budget available, whilst we undertake an in-depth strategic review of the service.

3.3.2 Note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet detailing the findings of the strategic review once finalised.

3.3.3 Delegate the decision with regards to any variance of the existing contract/contract value, noting that this is within the current budget available, to the Director of Adult Social Care who is also the NHS Place Director for Sefton in consultation with the Executive Director of People, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing in the event that the service review highlights additional activity to be delivered to ensure compliance with our statutory obligations.