

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	7 th September
Subject:	Day Opportunities Update		
Report of:	Assistant Director - Integrated Life Course Commissioning	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

- The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet regarding progress the plans to re-commission day opportunities in Sefton.
- The report also asks for approval to extend current contracts whilst the procurement concludes.

Recommendation(s):

(1) That members approve the extension of interim contracts with existing day service providers by a further 12 months to complete the procurement exercise.

(2) That members note the update within this report, with regards to the commissioning approach and success of the consultation and engagement undertaken and ongoing support of the user reference group as part of a coproduced approach.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The range of commissioning activity to support the longer-term vision and strategy has required a much broader market focus due to the impacts of the current cost of living crisis and increased pressure on fee levels and sustainability of provision including building-based offers of support has resulted in a longer timeframe being required to help commissioners to better understand the breadth of issues and impacts.

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

The option to progress the tender as described in the previous cabinet member report was considered and rejected based upon the need to further understand the wider market and impacts on fee levels due to the cost-of-living crisis, which is also impacting staffing levels.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

No revenue costs above the current budget are required, although the work around feel levels to support the market may have broader impacts where community options cannot be developed.

(B) Capital Costs

No capital costs are identified by the contents of this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): The further work required will enable a clearer understanding of financial impacts to be considered.	
Legal Implications: Any required commissioning and procurement whilst further work is undertaken will be compliant with legal obligations.	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications, an Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken in 2021 and will be updated as the work develops.	
Impact on Children and Young People: No direct effects, applicable to over 18s only.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
The consideration of broader day service strategy will seek to create a positive climate impact in that options for the sustainable delivery of provision will seek to consider, within any contractual requirements, elements like transport, types of buildings, utilities and encourage the use of more community-based spaces which can also support climate positive outcomes.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Vulnerable people will be supported through having a range of both universal and commissioned provision available to them.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

<p>The programmes in place will support people to become more confident and resilient by enabling them to develop their skills, widen their friendship circles, access volunteering opportunities and for some equip them to access employment opportunities.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: The proposed approach will seek to ensure sufficient capacity in the market which will offer Value for Money and good quality.</p> <p>The Vision and proposed commissioning approach are needs based, outcome focused and supportive of flexibility around an individual's needs. Services will support ongoing development and/or facilitate access to development, training and where possible employment options.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: This work aims to encourage more diverse provider markets operating locally in order to stimulate quality, choice and greater value for money.</p> <p>The Council is seeking to work with others to develop services, commissioned and universal.</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: The Council will be looking for innovation and flexibility within the market place in order to improve opportunities to access training and employment, increase people's networks/social circles and for some reduce dependency on models of care.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: This model will enable providers to encourage greater independence by supporting and encouraging people to enhance opportunities for ongoing learning and development including employment opportunities.</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment:</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener</p>

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7346/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5546/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Ongoing engagement with the developed user reference group has enabled and will support ongoing work and decisions.

Engagement with providers and potential community groups will be ongoing and supported through the work with VCF providers and other organisations.

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

Contact Officer:	Eleanor Moulton
Telephone Number:	07779162882
Email Address:	Eleanor.Moulton@Sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report.

Background Papers:

The detail of the previous Cabinet report received in June 2021 can be viewed here.

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 24/06/2021 10:00](#)

1. Background

- 1.1 This report is about day opportunities in Sefton. Day opportunities are a range of services provided to people who are eligible for social care in the daytime. Services are usually provided in a building-based provision or can be to support with access to community activities.
- 1.2 Cabinet will be aware that a previous report approved on the 24th of June 2021 described the strategy and vision for day opportunities and the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic on these services. There was a further update to the cabinet member for Adult Social Care in September 2022 detailing the outcome of the consultation.
- 1.3 Since the decision was made by Cabinet there has been an extensive public consultation and engagement process to gain a clear picture of the needs and aspirations of those who use day opportunities or those who may need them in the future. This led to the development of a reference group made up of experts by experience, families, and carers to support the co-production of a new specification which meets what they told us, reflects good practice and innovation from other areas and allows us to continue to meet demand.
- 1.4 The report also asks for a further extension of existing interim contracts because over the last 12 months we have seen an impact on workforce and in addition it was clear that the model of Day Opportunities needed to reflect work carried out on market sustainability required of all Councils by Department of Health and Social Care.

2. Introduction

- 2.1.1 Day Opportunities are places and services for supporting people with an assessed need during the day, they can be offered within a building-based location or within the community. Sefton commissions from 21 providers who deliver these services. The total day care budget for the current year 23/24 is £4,892,650. This does not include DP clients & there are additional budgets for travel, but we also get income to offset in part for example client contributions.
- 2.1.2 Day Opportunities are activities/services that help people to have a fulfilling life: they provide the opportunity to take part in various interests and activities, make friends, develop relationships, gain new skills and enable people to make a positive contribution to the community. Day opportunities also provide support to carers by means of creating respite so that they can pursue their own interests outside of their caring role.
- 2.1.3 The term 'day opportunities' covers a diverse range of services and activities, which cater for a variety of people and needs, and serve a number of different purposes, most of which are broadly preventive including:
- Providing social contact and stimulation; reducing isolation and loneliness maintaining and/or restoring independence
 - providing a break for carers
 - offering activities which provide mental and physical stimulation.
 - Enabling care and monitoring of very frail and vulnerable people
 - offering low level support for people at risk assisting recovery and rehabilitation after an illness or accident
 - providing some care services such as bathing and nail cutting.
 - Promoting health and nutrition providing opportunities for people to contribute as well as receive.

3. Work to date

- 3.1 A strategy was developed in 2021 which was based upon previous Cabinet decisions with regards to the model of support for day opportunities and also acknowledged the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic and sought to explore the impacts on both people who use or may use services and providers.
- 3.2 A Consultation and engagement undertaken during 2021/22 highlighted the aspirations of people in Sefton to have access to range of services which enabled them to gain more independence, with greater choice and flexibility, and involving much great access to the community. Although building based offers may always be needed for some it was clear that there was a need for us to think differently about delivery.
- 3.3 The consultation found that the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic had offered a significant challenge to providers and people who had used services and so recovery from both a financial and ongoing sustainability perspective has been slow in many cases, further developing the need for more flexible approaches to be in place.

- 3.4 The recent impact on top of these challenges with regards to utility costs, and staffing shortages have provided demands on providers particularly building-based services, and this has impacted on costs.
- 3.5 Fee consultations with existing providers during 2022/23 have highlighted issues which regards to costs which require more detailed understanding by commissioners including how other Councils model day services.
- 3.6 In addition there is a need to understand the impacts on smaller community - based groups and the impacts of these costs and understood what options there may be to support growth in these areas.
- 3.7 Although we have now achieved a clearly defined co-produced specification and proposed model there is further steps take.
- Engagement with providers have proved there is the need to do further work with the market to ensure we can deliver out ambitions in partnership,
 - To ensure we can fully meet the need of those with dementia,
 - To allow further work with wider partners such as Age UK,
 - to perform further financial modelling and to understand best practice models from elsewhere to ensure we can achieve a financial sustainability and a high-quality model which can continue to meet demand for this service area.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Cabinet is asked to note the progress of the commissioning for day opportunities and the successful development of the co-produced specification and ongoing support of the established reference group.
- 4.2 Cabinet are asked to approve the extension of the interim contracts with current providers whilst the work described is undertaken, for a further 12 months to allow adequate time to work through the steps described in this report and ensure we can conduct a robust ad support tender process in partnership with providers to allow us to deliver the ambition we hold for people who live in Sefton and would benefit from this critical service.