

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To approve the spot purchase Occupational Therapy assessments from NRS Healthcare Ltd via a contract variation to the ICES contract until 31.03.20
Date of decision:	25 February 2020
Decision maker:	Assistant Director of Adults and Communities
Authority for delegated decision:	Chief Executives scheme of delegation.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Consultation has been undertaken with the Director for Adults and Communities. The Cabinet member will be updated.
Decision made:	A contract variation for the current Integrated Community Equipment Service is approved to enable NRS Healthcare Ltd to undertake occupational therapy assessments on behalf of the council before the end of the year on a spot purchase basis. Approximate demand is estimated at 250 assessments before the end of the financial year with a maximum budget of £50,000.
Reasons for decision:	<p>There is currently a chronic shortage of directly employed occupational therapists in the council which has contributed to a large backlog of outstanding statutory assessments.</p> <p>In order to address some of the capacity issues, a new approach and structure has been approved to continue to meet our statutory requirements whilst improving the efficiency of the service. This will be implemented from early next financial year.</p> <p>The backlog of reviews needs to be completed before the new pathway begins in order to ensure a smooth transition period whilst not impacting on delivery.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Budget is already in place for this work as there are sufficient vacancies within the service to cover the costs. Therefore there are no financial implications with this decision.</p> <p>Failure to undertake the assessments within a reasonable time would mean that the council will not be meeting its statutory obligations under the Care Act 2014 therefore this solution</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>The alternative options considered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do nothing - Leave the backlog to be picked up in the new service structure and process - Commission another organisation to deliver - Directly employ OT's to undertake the work.

	<p>Recruitment of OTs both directly employed and locum practitioners, has been tried and proven insufficient to meet the current level of demand. The council has previous experience with the proposed provider and given the urgent nature of the task and our knowledge of the market, this approach is the only reasonable option to meet the objective. It is an extension of the existing community equipment contract and they have a track record in undertaking such activities for other local authorities in a similar position. There is a statutory function to undertake the assessments and therefore not progressing the assessments is not an option.</p> <p>Other West Midlands local authority Occupational Therapy managers were approached to suggest alternative approaches, but no additional suggestions were put forward.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed

Date: