

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Occupational Therapy Assessment Support Service
Date of decision:	7 November 2023
Decision maker:	Corporate Director Community Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Chief Executives scheme of delegation</p> <p>CW-01</p> <p>Adult social care operation and policy provision of assessment and care management; approved mental health practitioners; deprivation of liberty functions; strategic and operational safeguarding adults policies and procedures; prevention and support services (including welfare rights, occupational therapy, financial assessments, direct payments, telecare, rapid response registered service).</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	None
Decision made:	To undertake a four quote process, via the ProContract portal, from appropriately qualified and competent organisations. To award a six month contract with the successful provider for an Occupational Therapy Assessment Support Service.
Reasons for decision:	<p>There is currently a national shortage of directly employed Occupational Therapists (OT), including in Herefordshire, which is impacting on the council's capacity to complete statutory OT assessments.</p> <p>This solution ensures the council's responsibilities under the Care Act 2014 are fully met.</p> <p>The successful provider will complete approximately 200 OT assessments, in order to support the council, during the six month contract, at a maximum cost of £75,000.</p>
Highlight any associated risks / finance / legal / equality considerations:	<p>The risk of a challenge to the procurement process is mitigated by following a four quote process, in line with the council's procurement and contract procedures.</p> <p>Failure to undertake OT assessments within a reasonable time, would mean the council is not meeting its statutory obligations under the Care Act 2014.</p> <p>No other risks have been identified or are anticipated.</p>

<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Do nothing: This option is not recommended as there would be a significant gap in the provision of statutory council OT assessments. This may affect an individual's physical health and mental wellbeing with increased possibility of escalation into more formal social care services. There is a statutory function to undertake OT assessments under the Care Act 2014.</p> <p>Complete a full tender: This option is not recommended, not only because the available budget is below the appropriate UK threshold to require a full, open tender process, but also due to time constraints and the need to commence the completion of OT assessments at the earliest date possible, to provide the required support to the council.</p> <p>Employ additional Occupational Therapists to undertake the assessments: The recruitment of Occupational Therapists is challenging both locally and nationally. The council has tried to recruit additional OT's, but there are insufficient numbers to meet the current level of demand.</p> <p>There are no other financially viable options available.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>

Signed: Hilary Hall

Date: 8 November 2023