

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Award of contract - All Age Commissioning Service Development and Support
Date of decision:	01 September 2024
Decision maker:	Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	Under the Chief Executive scheme of delegation (CW-08) commissioning, quality assurance and contract management relating to all ages may be undertaken by the Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>Consultation has taken place with the Service Director of All Age Commissioning</p> <p>The Council's legal, commercial services and financial services have also been consulted about the potential implications of the proposal.</p>
Decision made:	Make an award of contract to Peopletoo using the ESPO framework. The contract will focus on supporting the All Age Commissioning Function within the Community Wellbeing Directorate, with a focus on delivering savings through the effective commissioning of a range of services. The maximum full term cost of the contract is £161,933 for the period 9 months from 1 September 2024 to 31 May 2025.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The All Age Commissioning function within the Community Wellbeing Directorate is in the process of transitioning into a new structure. The Service Director, All Age Commissioning is currently in the process of recruiting to vacant positions. However there are significant gaps in the current structure both in relation to staff capacity and knowledge and experience of adult social care commissioning. With timescales for new people coming into post extending into the new year additional capacity is required to support the service in the short term to ensure that commissioning arrangements remain safe and compliant with council procurement rules; that transformation priorities are delivered and savings achieved.</p> <p>In order to address these risks, Herefordshire Council has commissioned Peopletoo to support the All Age Commissioning Service. To take a lead on a number of priority projects, provide supporting capacity for projects being led by Council Officers, provide additional capacity to support business as usual activities where there are current gaps in the structure and produce workforce development plans for the All Age Commissioning Service.</p> <p>Peopletoo have the required relevant experience; have a good understanding of commissioning challenges in Herefordshire; have established relationships within the council and understand its operational policies, procedures and governance; and are able to mobilise support immediately.</p>

	<p>Peopletoo’s pricing against other providers listed on the ESPO framework for this particular lot is considered to demonstrate good value when considered in conjunction with their capacity to mobilise immediately; their ability to proceed at pace without needing time to establish new relationships, understand council policies, procedures and governance, and commissioning challenges. In additional they have proven track record of successful delivery of projects at pace in Herefordshire.</p> <p>Only 3 other providers on the framework for children’s and adult social care services offer lower prices at a senior level consultant which is where most of the delivery is required. The additional time required for a new provider to familiarise themselves with Herefordshire Council processes and procedures, build relationships with the people they need to work with and gain an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of commissioning in Herefordshire will require more time and costs.</p> <p>The ESPO framework is considered a compliant procurement route in line with the council’s contract procedure rules.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The commissioned provider will be expected to work to the same health and safety standards and codes of practice as the council, as far as is reasonably practicable.</p> <p>Funding for the contract is to be offset against savings delivered and will not therefore impact on the Councils base budget.</p> <p>The affect of not commissioning this service would be to the detriment of commissioned care services for adults with disabilities, and children and young people with support needs.</p> <p>Without the service in place there will be increased risks to compliance with Council’s contract procedure rules and procurement regulations.</p> <p>The ESPO framework is considered a compliant procurement route in line with the Council’s contract procedure rules.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Do nothing. This is not recommended. Without the additional capacity that this service it is extremely likely that commissioning priorities and savings plans will be delayed, that transformation priorities will be delayed, Council Procurement Rules will not be adhered to and that the timescales to develop a fully functioning All Age Commissioning Service will be delayed, this will impact on key priorities for delivery of services to support vulnerable adults and children with potential to lead to inefficiencies and continued cost pressures.</p> <p>Employ additional agency staff to undertake the work. This option is not recommended. The timescale to bring in additional agency staff, for them to familiarise themselves with Herefordshire Council processes and procedures, build relationships with the people they need to work with and gain an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of commissioning in Herefordshire will not deliver the support required quickly enough. There are also risks associated with this approach based on reliance on unknown personnel and potential short notice periods that could result in a lack of continuation and stability in support.</p>

	Procure the service via an open tender. This option is not recommended. Completing an open tender process would delay the start of any contract which would result in delays to progression of the planned work, delivery of required outcomes with subsequent impact on the Council's financial position.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	No Declarations of Interest made.

Signed..... Date:

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