

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	To extend the existing contract with Access Independent Ltd for the provision of the Occupational Therapy Assessment Support Service
<b>Date of decision:</b>	20 December 2024
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Hilary Hall - Corporate Director Community Wellbeing
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>Chief Executive scheme of delegation: 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> <p>The Corporate Director Community Wellbeing is authorised to take all operational decisions associated with this contract, in line with the original <a href="#">officer decision</a> on 15 January 2024.</p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	<p>The following council representatives were consulted, as part of this process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Front Door and Prevention Service Manager</li> <li>• Deputy Manager Independent Living Service</li> </ul>
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>To approve a three month extension to the current Occupational Therapy (OT) Assessment Support Service contract with Access Independent Ltd, which will run to 31 March 2025.</p> <p>To date, the service has spent approximately 52% of its allocated budget of £75,000. Therefore, there is sufficient funding available for the contract extension.</p>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The contract extension will enable Access Independent Ltd to complete the remaining 49 OT assessments and management of 70 ongoing cases, as per the current contract.</p> <p>There is still a national shortage of directly employed Occupational Therapists, including in Herefordshire. The council's Independent Living Service currently does not have capacity to complete these additional 49 OT assessments, alongside the assessments they are already undertaking, without causing a significant pressure on the team.</p>
<b>Equality considerations:</b>	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:</p>

	<p>a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act</p> <p>b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it</p> <p>c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</p> <p>The OT Assessment Support Service assists the council to meet its statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014. The service enables more residents to receive a timely assessment of their needs and the subsequent provision of appropriate support, including equipment and home adaptations, which will enable them to remain in their own homes and communities for longer and more safely.</p>
<p><b>Highlight any associated risks / finance / legal / equality considerations:</b></p>	<p>There are no associated risks with extending this service. The terms of the service will remain the same as per the current contract and the service is also significantly within budget.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p><b>Do nothing:</b> This option is not recommended as there will be a significant gap in the provision of statutory council OT assessments. The council's Independent Living Service currently does not have capacity to complete these additional assessments, without causing significant pressure on the team and potentially increasing the length of time residents have to wait to be assessed.</p> <p><b>Service re-procurement:</b> This option is not recommended. It would take at least two months to complete another procurement exercise, which would mean there would be a gap in service delivery during that time, to the detriment of the county's residents. The current service is being satisfactorily delivered and is within budget, therefore an extension is the preferred option.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None</p>

Signed: Hilary Hall

Date: 20 December 2024