

DAY OPPORTUNITIES FRAMEWORK- ADULTS**Report of the Director of Adult Social Care****1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report outlines the proposals for a new 4-year (2 years plus 2 years) framework for the provision of All Adults Day Opportunities across the borough. This report represents the continuation of the strategic approaches outlined in our Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategy, Think Carers Strategy 2024-2029 and The One Stockport Health and Social Care Plan. The council is committed to working with our partners in the private and voluntary sector to maintain and further develop a strong mixed economy of Day Opportunities that offers choice for individuals and carers and value for money for the council.
- 1.2 The strategic approach for the development of these services will be in line with the council's medium term financial plan.
- 1.3 It is against these core strategies and statutory requirements that this report and its recommendations are presented.
- 1.4 The following types of provision will be referred to within this report:
- Building Based Day Services
 - Community Based Day Opportunities
 - Enablement and Innovation
- 1.5 Collectively these services will be referred to as Day Opportunities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Flexible, meaningful, enjoyable, and person-centred Day Opportunities are an essential part of many individuals' adult social care offer. Currently Stockport Council commissions day service provision through an existing flexible purchasing system framework (FPS) which came into effect in April 2022 for two years (which has been extended for a short time whilst a review as undertaken as to whether a new framework should be designed and launched).
- 2.2 In 2023 Stockport Council commissioned an independent review of the current Day Opportunities available for adults over 18, part of the purpose of the review was to assess whether the existing provision was meeting need. This excluded Day Opportunities for individuals with a primary support need of mental health, a separate provision and review are being undertaken in respect of this offer.
- 2.3 The review in 2023 included site visits to building based provision, observations, feedback from people who utilise services and those who commission them, including individuals who self-fund or fund via direct payments.
- 2.4 The feedback from the review highlighted that there is a strong and positive provider community within the borough but recognised the constraints placed on providers

through current commissioning processes, a lack of shared information on need and gaps and a need for providers to be able to offer more. Key areas identified from the review were:

- A requirement for more choice and opportunities for individuals and providers
- A need for a stronger link between Day Opportunities and Short Breaks to ensure there is a positive impact on carers.
- A need for a higher level of flexibility for individuals receiving direct payments, or self-funders.
- A need for a more flexible approach that can offer a range of day opportunities that are short and medium term and offer a mixed economy of provision.
- A desire for services to link together in terms of individual development and progression through services, with a focus on coproduction and joint working with providers.
- A need for innovation that links services and community resources together
- A need to include more pathways to voluntary work, education and employment.

2.5 These could not be addressed through the existing framework as it is coming to an end, and we are legally required to procure a new contract. We will ensure the new Framework will consider all areas highlighted as part of this review.

3. STRATEGIC APPROACH

3.1 Our approach for the procurement of a 4-year framework, working together with STaR (our procurement partners) is aligned to the Key Objectives outlined in the One Health and Care Plan, specifically in respect of the following areas:

3.2 **Ensuring equity of decision making of resources to support early intervention and prevention across Stockport.** We will seek to achieve this through increasing choice and opportunity across the borough, linking directly with carers to support the utilisation of Day Opportunities to support short breaks and help to reduce carer breakdown. By ensuring that Day Opportunities are utilised to facilitate skill development, support independence and self-determination as part of our prevention and early help approach.

3.3 **Operating under a One Stockport Model by working across organisation and cultural barrier, encouraging open collaboration** We will seek through the framework to work cross organisationally with providers, engaging individuals and carers within the process and opening up conversations and opportunities to change the culture of Day Opportunities in Stockport.

3.4 As explained in Paragraph 2.1 the framework is coming to an end and we will utilise the process of procurement to improve the framework and to offer a more responsive to meeting needs of groups identified through our local demographics and provide opportunities for individuals to be involved in the design of new opportunities.

3.5 In line with the Care Act (2014) Stockport Council is keen to shape the market for care and support to ensure diversity of provision which is sustainable, person centred, innovative and asset based in approach. We are keen to work with new and existing providers who are committed to continuous improvement who can evidence

performance against an agreed outcomes framework and demonstrate quality and high levels of service user satisfaction. Our vision is the development of a market that prevents, where possible, people needing long-term support and provides real choice to those who require Day Opportunities. We want to enable the development of a community that benefits from equity of choice and promotes the right to live as independently as possible in a way that meets needs and aspirations.

3.6 Adult Social Care (ASC) current practice model’s emphasise proactive prevention, customer engagement, partnership working and managing demand through an asset, strengths-based approach. Aligned to the principles of [Gloriously Ordinary Lives](#) the successful provider(s) will help to deliver the objectives of ASC’s operating models in relation to the provision of Day Opportunities. Stockport ASC already have an existing framework for the provision of Day Opportunities. However, to embed new ways of working, drive innovation and change we are seeking to launch a 4-year framework. This will enable providers to work with the Council, individuals, carers and social work teams to develop new provision and address the findings of the review.

3.7 The Day Opportunities framework is divided into three Lots. Bidders can bid for more than one Lot, or all three.

3.8 Proposed Lots

Lot 1: Building Based Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building based services for people with a variety of support needs offering a range of regular activity, educational, developmental and need specific session
Lot 2: Community Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community group-based activities ▪ Shared Lives ▪ Evening and weekend activities
Lot 3: Innovation and Enablement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Occupational opportunities ▪ Travel Training ▪ Skills development and training courses ▪ Short Term Work Based Programmes ▪ Supported Employment ▪ New Developments – ‘call offs’

LOT 1- Building Based Day centres: Primarily for the most dependant service users and people with complex needs (including those with dementia, learning disabilities and physical disabilities). This would involve medium to long term support with a focus on an individual’s outcomes, health, and wellbeing.

LOT 2- Community Activities: Flexible service provision with people exercising more choice and control over how services are delivered. There would be a focus on enabling people to build their independence and support for them to connect to their

communities, with a mixture of medium term and short-term support. Within this lot providers may offer regular social activities and groups with varied scope, including faith-based activities, health and wellbeing activities, community connections, evening and weekend social activities and opportunities to experience a wider range of local resources.

LOT 3- Innovation and Enablement Services: At the point of entry there would be a focus on what people want to achieve (outcomes) and help for them to achieve their personal aspirations. The enablement phase could be time limited (for example up to 12 weeks) and would focus on developing or regaining skills; accessing training, promoting independence, and helping people to connect to their communities or engage in voluntary or paid work. This phase would be suitable for service users with short term support needs.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The cost of Day Opportunities delivered under the existing 2-year framework was £5,255,459 in 2023/2024. The services are currently being delivered via an extension of this contract through modification whilst Cabinet approval is sought for the new framework.
- 4.2. The intention of the new framework will be to develop more community-based options for individuals which are more cost effective and promote community engagement, encourage individuals to develop skills, grow and learn and achieve meaningful outcomes such as employment. There is an option to utilise the framework to call off specific supported employment programmes rather than hold a separate contract to deliver this provision in isolation.
- 4.3. As part of the framework objectives, we will work to drive up the utilisation of direct payments against day opportunities, rather than wholly commissioning provision.
- 4.4. There will be a focus on managing future costs and opportunities in line with our Aging Well, All Age Autism and Learning Disability Strategies. However, demand for services and the time to reshape the market across the Borough means we would seek the value of the framework being set at £21,200,000 over the 4-year period.
- 4.5. The strategic approach for the development of these services will be in line with the council's medium term financial plan.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1. Section 5 (4) of the Care Act (2014) requires the Council to consider, when making decisions about commissioning services, the importance of promoting the well-being of people with care and support needs and carers. Section 5 (5) of the Care Act (2014) requires the council to have regard to the duty when either providing or arranging services to meet the care and support needs of adults with care needs and carers. Alongside this, the Council has a critical role in local market shaping to encourage quality, choice and sufficiency of provision.

- 5.2. On the understanding that the procurement will take place under the existing regulations before the new regime comes into force in February 2025, a public procurement process must be followed in accordance with regulation 3 and regulation 33 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 before it can be awarded. Advice will continue to be sought from STaR.
- 5.3. Due to the value of the services to be awarded under the framework (exceeding £10m), the decision to launch the framework is a Cabinet decision. The decision is a Key Decision as the new framework does fulfil the criteria needed for a Key Decision (as per Article 15 of the council's constitution ([here at 15.03\(b\)](#))).
- 5.4. Each individual contract that is called off under the framework will have to be assessed on its merits and value at the time it is being entered into. The governance needed and the appropriate delegations required to enter into the contracts will depend on the value of each contract.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 6.1. The feedback from social care providers highlighted a significant challenge in recruiting and retaining staff. The difficulties that providers are experiencing have an impact on the Council delivering on the market shaping duties under the Care Act (2014). Managing and mitigating these risks will require additional ongoing support and intervention from the Council, for example, further integrated health and social care recruitment fayres and leadership development courses for external social care providers. The delivery of a longer-term framework will provide security of service need and future recruitment to services.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1. No negative impacts have been identified which arise from the proposals contained in this report. A combination of positive and neutral impacts has been identified. The positive impacts relate to enabling providers to develop and deliver a broader and more inclusive range of Day Opportunities, offering multiple ways in which they can sustain their organisations, therefore being able to retain a more stable workforce which will benefit residents. In addition, a more stable market benefits both staff and residents as the risk of service closure from financial causes is reduced. Women would be key beneficiaries of the identified positive impacts as they make up the majority of the workforce and the majority of unpaid carers.
- 7.2. The council will be able to request framework providers to deliver specific culturally appropriate Day Opportunities where needs are identified and has the ability to promote a more inclusive approach for individuals, for example for our East Asian communities, through the procurement of specific (Care Act Eligible) community-based opportunities.
- 7.3. There is no negative environmental impact of the framework. The framework and recommendations from the review lend itself to a move towards a mixed economy of Day Opportunities, including the utilisation of existing community resources, reducing the need for additional building-based provision and positively impacting energy use.

All providers applying for the framework will be required to demonstrate social value, including positive environmental actions.

8. RISKS AND MITIGATION

8.1. Overview of Risk

Risk of carer breakdown

Carer Breakdown has been established as an identified risk as part of our Think Carers Strategy 2024-2029- Priority 1 of the strategy focused on health and wellbeing with 'Respite' being a core requirement. Day Opportunities provide carers with essential breaks from their role and support with their holistic health and well-being.

Failure to deliver resources to meet care act eligible need.

The ongoing delivery of Day Opportunities which have been established as a part of individuals Statutory care plan will need to continue, the continuation of a framework from which to deliver these is essential.

Risk of increase care costs- residential care, increased home care packages

Where individuals are able to access the right preventative care and support the risk of carer breakdown can be managed more effectively. Where carers are supported with short breaks the risk of residential care placements or higher packages of home care can be reduced.

Lack of innovative and meaningful approaches to day opportunities

We want Day Opportunities in Stockport to be innovative, to respond to need and to drive forward increased independence and self-determination for individuals receiving ASC services. We want to create a mixed economy of opportunities that deliver outcomes for people and are aspirational in respect of employment, education and voluntary work.

8.2. Stockport Council has a strong partnership with existing Day Service providers who offer unique opportunities to individuals with assessed needs and essential breaks for carers. We are keen to develop our Day Opportunities offer across Stockport for all adults who would benefit.

8.3. Offering providers a 4-year period to innovate and deliver outcome-based opportunities that will support our residents to live Gloriously Ordinary Lives, increase and / or maintain levels of independence and prevent carer breakdown are key drivers behind the delivery of the framework.

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1. The Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment on this report prior to it proceeding to the Cabinet meeting.

9.2. Cabinet is requested to:-

- a. Approve the launch of the new framework; and

- b. Delegate to the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care and the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Governance to enter into all contractual documentation and agreements required to give effect to the framework referred to in this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Emma Knight by email on emma.knight@stockport.gov.uk