

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 20 March 2023

Wards: All

Subject: Extension of Community Dementia Services

Lead Director: John Morgan, Executive Director, Adult Social Care, Integrated Care and Public Health

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Cabinet member for Health and Social Care

Contact officer: Heather Begg, Commissioning Officer, Adult Social Care

Daniel Butler, Senior Principal, Public Health

Recommendation:

- A. That Cabinet approve the modification of the contract to allow extension of Community Dementia Services provided by Alzheimer's Society for a further 2 1/2 years (From 1 October 2023-31 March 2026).
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 With Nurturing Civic Pride being one of the new administration's key priorities for Merton, the proposal to extend this contract has involved and will continue to involve extensive engagement and partnership working alongside all key partners, including health, social care and Alzheimer's Society including people with Dementia and their carers.
- 1.2 Highlighted as a model of best practice, Merton's community-based approach to providing support to people with Dementia and their carers throughout their Dementia Journey has been underpinned by previous benchmarking and research into the national, regional and local context. Understanding how and where our residents with Dementia and their families need support reflects our commitment to restoring Civic Pride in our borough. We want people to feel proud to live, work and visit in Merton.
- 1.3 Alongside Civic Pride, building a sustainable future and working towards being a borough of sport involves supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities and this service promotes the independence and active lives of our older residents.
- 1.4 To create a sustainable model for the future, Alzheimer's Society have successfully adapted their model of support through a revised specification for Community Dementia Services in Merton, meaning that services are now provided across the borough, both in people's homes, in the community and at the Dementia Hub Building in Mitcham. Activities are also be facilitated by other organisations within the hub building (such as Adult Learning and the Attic Theatre Company). The Council has developed strong working relationships with Alzheimer's Society over the past years. Quarterly contract monitoring meetings with Alzheimer's Society

demonstrate that the service is performing well and meeting all required performance measures.

- 1.5 The Community Dementia Services provided by Alzheimer's Society are at the heart of the partnership with health and other voluntary and community organisations and is therefore able to facilitate access to the range of specialist dementia services to support people to 'live well' with Dementia and reduce the impact through timely information, advice, activities, support and education. The service also provides essential Carers and Relatives Information Support Programmes (**CRISP**) and the Strategies for Relatives 1-1 support programme (**START**) in the persons home in addition to their peer support groups for carers.
- 1.6 This report recommends modifying the current contract with Alzheimer's Society to allow for a further extension in order to vary the term from 5 years to 7 ½ years (from 1 October 2023-31 March 2026).
- 1.7 The proposed extension of a further 2 ½ years on the existing contract would allow enough time to implement and review the new enhanced service in order to recommission prior to expiry of the 7 1/2-year term. The value of the proposed extension will not exceed the permitted 50% of the original contract value and Regulation 72(1) (b) and/or 72(1) (c) may be relied upon to lawfully extend the current contract. In both instances a notice of contract modification will be published on the Find-a-Tender service.
- 1.8 Offering the extension to the current service model, further embedding and developing the community focus of the model allows commissioners across the health & care place partnership to undertake a joint review and remodelling of dementia services across Merton with the overall aim that future services are integrated and accessible, providing a high quality service to all people with dementia and their families across the borough.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 The Community Dementia service was commissioned with Alzheimer's Society from the 1 October 2018-30 September 2021 and then extended for a further 2 years (October 2021-September 2023) to support individuals with Dementia and their families/carers who are resident in the London Borough of Merton or are registered with a Merton GP, that require preventative support and community opportunities as their dementia journey progresses.
- 2.2 The staff and volunteers work to support people with dementia and their carers to live independently for as long as possible and encourage connectivity within wider Dementia Friendly community, faith and voluntary sector groups.
- 2.3 There are 6 key service elements that are expected to be delivered as part of the Community Dementia Services Model:
 - Community based support and Dementia Hub based activities
 - Information, Advice and Education
 - Wellbeing Assessment and Support planning
 - Peer Support
 - Dementia Friendly Communities
 - Volunteer Support

- 2.4 The recommended extension to the existing contract will potentially be supported by 3 existing Eastway staff who will be given the option to second across to work with Alzheimer's Society. Going forward, this service will be expanded from a purely preventative service to be offered to new customers who have Dementia with additional support needs that require community opportunities.
- 2.5 The current services work very closely with all health partners and this period of extension, provides the Council an opportunity, in further developing the model in Merton, to benchmark the level of funding, joint working and integration in other SWL boroughs. Our aim is to achieve equality of service provision across South West London and work in a more integrated way with the ICB to expand the current offer to support more people with Dementia and their families and carers.
- 2.6 The proposed new model will make use of the existing Dementia Hub building alongside other venues and seek to work closely with health partners such as CLCH and the Primary Care Networks in Merton, in particular adhering to the East Merton Model of Care. The Hub has a member of staff at St Georges Hospital who is well placed to support with effective discharge of patients with Dementia and are linking with the new Discharge multiagency in-reach team. The Hub hosts one of the memory assessment clinics and we would be keen to further develop this service and strengthen links to specialist dementia services with the Community Based model. Alzheimer's Society would like to have an active role with the Wilson Wellbeing Hub development, which could lead to some Dementia Services being delivered from this location and other health hubs across the Borough.
- 2.7 Public Health and ASC representatives are in conversations with the SWLICB who are reviewing all their contracts with the Alzheimer's Society for Community Dementia Services to see if they can adopt a standardised approach across the region. There is also extensive work happening with all partners (led by the ICB) to review and revise the Dementia Pathway in Merton to better support people with Dementia and their carers. Both pieces of work are at an early stage but aims to shape and inform the future model for enhanced Community Dementia Services.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 **Do not extend or vary the contract:** this would provide short term continuity until expiry of current contract at the end of September 2023, however the service would diminish at a time when people living with dementia and their carers needs have increased due to the impact of covid-19 and the cost of living and the number of people being diagnosed with dementia is set to increase. **Not recommended**
- 3.2 **Carry out a separate procurement for the goods, services or works:** a separate procurement would enable a comprehensive assessment of community dementia services provision. However, there is insufficient time to recommission and reprocur. With the changing landscape of the dementia pathway and community dementia services to a more enhanced offer with health and wider partners, it is not ideal to recommission the service amidst anticipated changes. There is also a very limited market for this type of service. **Not recommended**

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 The current service specification was reviewed in 2021 to ensure it met best practice and allowed for the development of a community dementia model, where services were available throughout the borough, nearer peoples homes whilst retaining the services, expertise and support available at the Dementia Hub. The aim of the community-based dementia services model remains to support people living with dementia and their carers, throughout their dementia journey and to help them to live independently for longer. As part of developing the new service a full review of legislation, policy guidance and best practice was carried out.
- 4.2 Consultation was carried out during 2021 with people living with dementia, their families and carers as well as staff working on dementia, to inform the service model. This included focus groups and interviews.
- 4.3 An online engagement survey was also developed and published via the council’s consultation database, where stakeholders had the opportunity to input their views on the proposed approach to community-based services. The survey ran from 26th of July until the 24th of August 2021.
- 4.4 The results of the engagement sessions and the online survey found that respondents were in favour of dementia services proposed in the community dementia services model, with all six service elements (highlighted in 2.3) proposed receiving positive feedback. The full survey results can be found [here](#).
- 4.5 Further consultation on new revisions to the service model that will now support people more advanced in their dementia journey will take place during spring 2023 to ensure people living with dementia, carers and families and staff are heard.

5. TIMETABLE

Approval of recommendations at LSG	6 March 2023
Approval of recommendations at Cabinet	20 March 2023
Inform provider of decision	27 March 2023
Engage with key stakeholders on development of new model for enhanced community dementia services	April 2023
Extension for new service start date	1 October 2023

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Community Dementia Services Contract is currently funded mainly by the Core Budget (£163,308pa) with a Better Care Fund contribution of £74,436pa and a £60,000 contribution from the SWL ICB to the total of £297,744pa.
- 6.2 For 2 ½ years the extension of the contract would cost £744,360, which is 50% of the overall contract value of £1,488,720 for 5 years. There are sufficient funds within the core budget, with the BCF contribution to fund this. The Council will

discuss additional funding opportunities to expand the enhanced model of support with the ICB.

6.3 The Council will discuss any changes that may be required to the building environment and any additional resources that are required with Alzheimer's Society to support the initiation and implementation of this new enhanced model.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Council's CSOs (Contract Standing Orders) 27.2 provide that a contract may be modified/varied or extended, if any such changes are provided for within the terms of the contract and /or allowed within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCRs).

7.2 Regulation 72 (1) (b) and/or (c) PCRs would allow the recommended variation for the reasons cited in this report and on the basis that the increase in the contract price would not exceed 50% of the initial contract value.

7.3 In addition, Responsible Officers must be able to demonstrate that the variation will offer Value for Money to the Council and that the contract will continue to meet the Council's requirements.

7.4 A notice of contract modification must be published on the Find-A-Tender e-procurement service and a written record of the reasons and justification for the use of this Regulation must be retained so that there is an audit trail to rely on in the event of a challenge.

7.5 Once completed, the contract variation must be recorded on the Council's Contracts register.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1 When looking to extend the contract and model of support to more people with Dementia and their carers, regard will need to be had to the public sector equality duties and decisions-making will be informed by equality analysis.

8.2 The specification for Enhanced Community Dementia Services will ensure equal access to all members of the community and can be targeted at those people and areas with the highest levels of need.

8.3 An equality analysis has been completed as part of the savings proposal relating to Eastway Day Centre. Any recommendations or mitigating actions will be considered as part of the new service implementation.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None specific to this report. The proposals in this report do not have a direct crime and disorder impact, however, they will contribute to an inclusive and cohesive

society and improve the resilience of vulnerable residents with Dementia and their carers. Overall, this should have a positive impact on the factors that contribute to crime and disorder and reduce the likelihood of vulnerable residents becoming victims of criminal behaviour.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Two of the council's key risks relate to equalities and to partnership working. The proposals set out in this report will mitigate risks in relation to this.

11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

N/A

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

Department Approval	Name of Officer	Date of Comments
Legal	Sanura Lambert	14/02/23
Finance	Lana Hamilton	13/02/23