



## Report to Cabinet

<b>Date:</b>	5 January 2021
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Support to the Provider Market as a result of Covid-19</b>
<b>Relevant councillor:</b>	<b>Angela Macpherson</b>
<b>Author and/or contact officer:</b>	Gillian Quinton Corporate Director Adults & Health
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>(i) To agree a package of immediate short-term financial support; and</b>  <b>(ii) To commit to ongoing negotiation with a view to reaching an overall conclusion by March 2021.</b>
<b>Reason for decision:</b>	<b>To ensure that the Council can meet its obligations under the Care Act 2014 to ensure continuity of care and support in the event of provider failure.</b>

*There are confidential appendices to this report, which are exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 because they contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).*

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 Covid-19 has created a number of challenges in the care market, including rising costs around staffing and PPE; a changing profile of clients for bed-based care, with clients presenting with more complexity; and disruption to the self-funder market.
- 1.2 The Council has a number of obligations under the Care Act 2014 in relation to support for Providers:
  - to promote the efficient and effective operation of a market in services for meeting care and support needs;

- ensuring the sustainability of the market (in circumstances where it is operating effectively as well as in circumstances where it is not); and
- in the event of provider failure, to ensure continuity of care and support so that all clients (including self-funders) continue to receive services that keep them safe and well.

1.3 A specific request has been received to provide financial support during the covid-19 crisis. This decision seeks approval for short term financial support in order come to a planned and sustainable solution in the longer term.

1.4 This request is to be considered in confidential session as it contains information relating to financial or business affairs which are commercially confidential.

## **2. Other options considered**

2.1 The options considered are set out within the confidential report; the recommended proposal has been determined to be the best way to manage risk, provide continuity of care and support the development of a longer term sustainable solution.

## **3. Legal and financial implications**

3.1 Please see attached report for financial implications, this information is confidential.

3.2 Legal advice has been sought and resource allocated to manage the procurement and social care implications of these proposals.

## **4. Corporate implications**

4.1 This proposal is in line with our corporate aim to protect the vulnerable and our Better Lives strategy. The procurement implications are being considered including to ensure value for money is achieved.

## **5. Consultation with local councillors & community boards**

5.1 None.

## **6. Communication, engagement & further consultation**

6.1 Details are provided within the confidential report.

## **7. Next steps and review**

7.1 This project will be monitored through the Adult Social Care Portfolio board meetings and the Adult Social Care cell.



## **8. Your questions and views (for key decisions)**

- 8.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider please inform the Democratic Services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

## **9. Background papers**

- 9.1 None.

## **Appendices**

*Confidential report and appendices*

