



Report to Cabinet

Date:	30 March 2021
Title:	Support to the provider market as a result of Covid 19
Relevant councillor(s):	Angela Macpherson
Author and/or contact officer:	Gillian Quinton Corporate Director Adults & Health
Ward(s) affected:	None
Recommendations:	<p>(i) To agree a package of support for a transition period to stabilise the provider market during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>(ii) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Adults & Health and the s151 Officer to finalise the details of the support package</p>
Reason for decision:	To ensure the council provides continuity of care in line with its statutory obligations under the Care Act 2014 and to enable the future re-commissioning of services.

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 In January 2021 a report relating to this matter was presented and approved by Cabinet, which resulted in a package of immediate, short-term financial support and a commitment to ongoing negotiations with a view to reaching an overall conclusion by March 2021 regarding longer term sustainable options.
- 1.2 Through those ongoing negotiations a thorough review of the options has been undertaken and resulted in a recommendation that a further package of support,

details of which are outlined within a confidential report, is offered for a transition period to stabilise the market during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 1.3 The implementation of this transition period will allow for some stabilisation within the care market and minimise the risk of provider failure. This will also provide the Local Authority with time to analyse the longer-term impact of Covid 19 on demand for care and support services and will enable the Council to prepare for a comprehensive commissioning exercise.
- 1.4 The proposed option provides the best foundation for service continuity as well as achieving value for money whilst enabling us to meet our 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
- 1.5 This decision seeks approval of a package of support for a transition period, whilst work is undertaken to identify the longer-term sustainable option
- 1.6 Details of this request will be considered in a confidential session as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs which are commercially confidential.

2. Other options considered

- 2.1 The options considered are set out in a confidential report. The recommended proposal has been determined to be the best way to ensure continuity of care and support; management of risk; and provides value for money.

3. Legal and financial implications

- 3.1 The legal and financial implications of the proposal are outlined within the confidential report.

4. Corporate implications

- 4.1 This proposal is in line with the corporate aim to protect the vulnerable and supports our ambitions as outlined in the Better Lives strategy.

5. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

5.1 None

6. Communication, engagement & further consultation

6.1 Details are provided within the confidential report.

7. Next steps and review

7.1 If approved this proposal will be monitored by the Adults and Health Board, including a regular review of market challenges so progress to a longer-term sustainable position can be progressed in a timely manner.

8. Background papers

8.1 None

9. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

9.1 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 382 343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

