

Individual Executive Decision Notice

Report title	Adult Services Reserve Fund	
Decision designation	GREEN	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Linda Leach Cabinet Member for Adults	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
Originating service	Adult Services	
Accountable employee	Becky Wilkinson	Deputy Director – Adult Services
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Report to be/has been considered by	Directorate Leadership Team	19 August 2021
	Cabinet Member Briefing	06 September 2021

Summary

On 16 June 2021 Cabinet approved the delegation of authority to the Cabinet Member for Adults, in consultation with the Director of Children’s and Adult Services and Finance to allocate funds from the Adults Social Care Reserve through the Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2020-2021 report.

The purpose of this IEDN is to request permission to allocate funds from the Adult Reserve to:

Adult Service review programme

It is the duty of the local authority (Care Act 2014), to keep care and support plans under general review and upon the reasonable request of a review by a person or carer to whom a plan relates. There is an estimated 920 adult social care reviews outstanding that the service does not have capacity to undertake.

The review programme will complete 920 adult social care reviews by March 2022. The Adult Service redesign alongside the implementation of an upgraded care management recording system will ensure outstanding reviews are managed in the future.

Recommendation for decision:

That the Cabinet Member for Adults, in consultation with the Executive Director of Families:

1. Approve the allocation of £161,000 from the Adult Reserve to the Adult Service review programme.

Signature
Councillor Linda Leach
Cabinet Member Adults

Date: 8 September 2021

Signature
Claire Nye
Director of Finance

Date: 8 September 2021

Signature
Emma Bennett
Executive Director of Families

Date: 6 September 2021

1.0 Background

- 1.1 It is the duty of the local authority to keep care and support plans under general review (Care Act 2014). Upon the reasonable request of a person or carer to whom a plan relates, a review of the plan should be completed. This should be completed annually.
- 1.2 Due to a general increase in demand on adult services, together with the response required to support the most vulnerable adults and their carers during the Covid-19 pandemic, we have a backlog of annual reviews. A dedicated team is proposed to complete 920 adult social care reviews by March 2022 in order to comply with our statutory responsibilities. The Adult Service redesign alongside the implementation of an upgraded care management recording system will ensure outstanding reviews will not continue to increase in the future.

2.0 Options and Plan

Short term plan

- 2.1 A proportionate Care Act 2014 compliant review will be undertaken with each person in receipt of care and support. Reviews will be completed virtually or face to face. This may take place in a person's home, in a care home or supported living setting.
- 2.2 The project requires four qualified social workers and two social care workers for 26 weeks. The weekly cost of an agency social worker is £1,217, and the cost of an agency social care worker is £666 per week. The total cost of the project will be £161,231
- 2.3 The completion of 920 proportionate Care Act 2014 compliant reviews, using six workers within 26 weeks will be achieved.

Medium Term Plan

- 2.4 Evaluation of how many people need follow up support post-review, will determine the medium-term plan response.

Dependencies

- 2.5 If there is no capacity within teams to undertake follow up work, further prioritising of work will be required, pending the Adult Services redesign.
- 2.6 The medium-term plan is not costed due to the inability to accurately forecast demand based upon 2020-2021 data due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will monitor and manage review activity to ensure a backlog does not occur again. The review of, and the potential for, increased need for support as we re-light our city will be monitored. The ability for teams to respond to follow up work, will be reviewed throughout the project. It is not yet known what percentage of reviews will result in follow up support being required

Long Term Plan

- 2.7 The Adult Services redesign will ensure that staffing resources in each locality/team have capacity to promote resilience in communities and to prevent, delay or reduce the need for long term, formal support. The redesign will use forecast demand based upon local data, known demographic knowledge and impact of social policy or reform. The redesign will be required to address any residual overdue social work tasks and sustain performance, meet the needs of adults in our city and fulfil statutory duties.

3.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 3.1 Adult Leadership Team have discussed alternative options including contracting with an outside company to complete the reviews. This would not be in line with the 3 Conversation practice model and would increase costs to the Council.
- 3.2 Adult Leadership Team considered using current resources to carry out the reviews. There is not enough resource in the team to divert staff to complete the reviews within a reasonable timeframe and without putting business as usual, at significant risk.
- 3.3 Taking this action ensures the Council meets its statutory duties and fulfils Care Act 2014 compliance. Continuing to hold a backlog of statutory reviews places the Council at statutory risk.

4.0 Reasons for decision

- 4.1 It is the statutory duty of the local authority to keep care and support plans under general review. Upon the reasonable request of a person or carer to whom a plan relates, a review of the plan should be completed.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 The proposed cost of completing the review programme outlined above, is £161,000 and can be met in full from the Adults Social Care Reserve. There will be no savings targets attached to this review programme.

[JB/31082021/J]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The Council is bound by Section 27, The Care Act 2014:

Review of care and support plan or of support plan

(1) A local authority must—

- (a) keep under review generally care and support plans, and support plans, that it has prepared, and

(b) on a reasonable request by or on behalf of the adult to whom a care and support plan relate or the carer to whom a support plan relates, review the plan.

6.2 Completion of Care Act 2014 reviews ensures the Council fulfils its statutory duties and compliance.

[TC/02092021]

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 Recruitment will follow the City of Wolverhampton Council equality and diversity policies.

7.2 Completing statutory Care Act 2014 reviews with adults with care and support needs, supports our commitment to challenging discrimination and promoting equality and diversity.

8.0 Schedule a background papers

8.1 [Reserves, Provisions and Balances 2020-2021](#) – Cabinet 16 June 2021