

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 by the Executive Member for Health and Social Care.

Date notified to all members: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Unless called-in, the decision can be implemented from 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

#### 1. **TITLE**

Investment in a Direct Payment Support Service

#### 2. **DECISION TAKEN**

That the Executive Member for Health and Social Care:-

1. Approves the tendering of an external Direct Payments Support Service for an interim 2-year period with the option to extend. The cost will be £170k per annum.

a) This will ensure Care Act 2014 compliance by providing people, and our staff, with specialist advice and support. This is particularly relevant for people choosing to employ Personal Assistants.

b) During this interim period a full options appraisal will be undertaken to explore the longer-term solution for Direct Payment support. The options appraisal will be co-produced and explore options such as creating an in-house support option, continuing with a procured service, building a community-based user-led consortium, and creating a free-market of several providers.

2. Delegates authority to the Executive Director, People / Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Commercial Services and the Director of Legal and Governance to:

a) Decide the award of the new contract to the successful service provider chosen by the Council following the procurement.

Take all other decisions necessary to meet the aims, objectives and outcomes of this report which are not already covered by existing delegations in the Leaders Scheme of Delegations.

#### 3. **Reasons For Decision**

- To ensure that employers of PAs have sufficient information and support to meet their legal obligations
  - To provide support and advice to staff, and to increase worker confidence in Direct Payments
  - To provide upfront support that improves budget decisions and management
  - To remove support tasks from workers relating to PA employment issues, freeing up time to deliver social work activities
- To improve the customer and staff journey, streamlining processes

**4. Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

- Do nothing – continue with Care Act non-compliance and maintain current risks
- An in-house support service - we currently lack the skill and capacity to achieve this, this will be considered as a longer-term option. Currently we do not have the time to set this up and recruit and train staff to the required standards

**5. Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

**6. Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Executive Director, People Services

**7. Relevant Scrutiny Committee If Decision Called In**

Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee