

AGENDA ITEM No. 10



Meeting of East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Performance and Audit Committee
Held on	25 September 2024
Agenda Item	10
Title	Commissioned Services
Summary	
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide the Performance and Audit Committee with an update on the current arrangements in place to commission health and care services with external partners.</p>	
Presented by	Margaret Phelps, Strategic Planning, Performance and Commissioning Manager
Action Required	
<p>It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee note and comment on the arrangements in place to commission health and care services with external partners.</p>	

EAST RENFREWSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

PERFORMANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

25 September 2024

Report by Chief Officer

COMMISSIONED SERVICES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Performance and Audit Committee with an update on the current arrangements in place to commission health and care services with external partners.

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee note and comment on the arrangements in place to commission health and care services with external partners.

BACKGROUND

3. The Performance and Audit Committee on 27 September 2023 received the report on the arrangements in place to commission health and care services with external partners. The report set out the level of the commissioned services within East Renfrewshire. The Contract and Commissioning Team work alongside HSCP services to support the range of contractual arrangements in place. This report seeks to provide the annual update on the progress made during 2023/24.
4. Within the Recovery and Renewal Programme a Commissioned Services Review, which commenced in November 2022, provides support to service redesign, and associated efficiencies. This ensures alignment between the Strategic Commissioning Plan and the Recovery and Renewal Programme.

REPORT

5. The Strategic Plan 2022/25 and Strategic Commissioning Plan 2023/25 describe our partnership and vision, recognising the benefits of working collaboratively as a broad and inclusive partnership and includes the range of services commissioned and delivered by our external partners. The Strategic Planning Group at their meeting on 29th August 2024 approved the arrangements for the light touch review of the Strategic Plan. This review will include an update on the Strategic Commissioning Plan. There will be an engagement programme during autumn 2024 culminating in a 6 week consultation period from December 2024 and a final draft of the Strategic Plan presented to the Integration Joint Board by March 2025.

Partnership working – commissioned services

6. The HSCP works alongside a range of external partners to deliver health and social care services as part of the following contractual arrangements. The contractual arrangements have been revised to ensure: greater choice and control for individuals; sustainability for the provider sector; and compliance with Scottish Government policy. The table below shows spend for purchased care for the 12 months from April to March for the last two financial years.

Framework	2022/23	2023/24
Care and Support (includes care at home providers)	£20,795,231	£22,023,927
Care Homes for Adults with Learning Disabilities Including Autism	£173,921	£185,013
Care Homes	£12,234,457	£13,236,068
Children's Residential Care and Education, including Short Break, Services	£1,920,617	£1,570,399
Social Care Agency	£313,112	£589,257
Digital Telecare	£233,640	£268,497
Grants	£2,811,036	£2,459,594
Contracts	£1,127,006	£1,476,133
Sub Total	£39,609,020	£41,808,888
Non Framework		
Adults Services	£2,801,278	£4,524,428
Children's Services	£1,500,508	£1,331,693
Total	£43,910,806	£47,665,009

7. **Care and Support** – An increase of 8.77% was applied to support the Scottish Government pay uplift for adult social care workers to a minimum of £12.00 per hour.
8. **Care Homes for Adults with Learning Disabilities** – An increase of 7.24% was applied to support the Scottish Government pay uplift for adult social care workers.
9. **Nursing and Residential Care Contracts** – The National Care Home Contract was renewed 23/24 at residential care 6% and 5.99% for nursing care.
10. **Quick Quotes** – The value of quick quotes in the reporting period in question was zero. A quick quote value is between £10,000 and £49,999.
11. **Direct Awards** – The HSCP received approval to make 2 direct awards during the reporting period in question, working through the corporate procurement unit and legal services jointly. The awards were in the area of adult services and reflect the specialist nature of the purchasing activity.
12. **Grant Payments** – the HSCP during 2023/24 commenced a review of current grant arrangements resulting in the realignment where applicable from grant award to contractual arrangements. Overall 19 grant awards are made to 16 organisations totalling £2,459,594.

13. **Scotland Excel frameworks** – a number of contracts have been revised with the introduction of the following frameworks:
- a. Secure Care
 - b. Fostering & Continuing Care Services
 - c. Children’s Residential Care and Education including short breaks
 - d. Agency Workers (Social Care)
 - e. Care and Support Flexible Framework
 - f. Care Homes Adults with Learning Disabilities
 - g. Care Home services for Older People – National Care Home Contract (NCHC)
 - h. Residential Rehabilitation Alcohol and Drugs
 - i. Digital Telecare
14. East Renfrewshire Council pays Scotland Excel an annual membership fee of £85,991, detailed below:
- £81,378 general membership to use the frameworks, paid by the Council; and
 - £4,613 paid by the HSCP as a contribution to the National Care Home Contract.
15. During 2023/24 Scotland Excel informed HSCPs of their intention to implement a renewal of the frameworks for care and support and care homes for adults with learning disability. East Renfrewshire continues to utilise both frameworks to identify and place care for people in line with the Social Care (Self-directed) Support Act (2013).
16. Scotland Excel commenced the review of the care and support framework in early 2024 with the intention to renew by 1st April 2024. As part of the renewal process, providers were able to submit revised costings on their delivery of care and increased costs for HSCPs as purchasers of care. Nationally, HSCPs expressed their concern over the ability of IJBs to meet the increased costs given the current financial challenges. This resulted in extended negotiation both nationally and locally with a resulting delay in the renewal of date to end September 2024.
17. For East Renfrewshire, the request from external providers to meet the increased hourly rates to meet requirements of current care needs purchased from the framework could incur an additional annual cost of £376,000. We intend to work with partner organisations to maintain the existing rates for care packages already in place and will need to consider the new rates, across all providers, for new care packages.
18. Scotland Excel have deferred renewal of the care homes for adults with disability framework until April 2025 with an extension in place for the current framework until that time.
19. The annual spend detailed in the report refers to the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24. The reductions in cost relating to the Supporting People Framework and other savings will manifest in 2024/25.

Strategic Commissioning

20. The previous report outlined the work undertaken to develop a collaborative commissioning approach for East Renfrewshire HSCP and the development of a shared statement of intent setting out agreed principles and approach, co-designed with wider partners and stakeholders.

21. The Strategic Commissioning Plan set out a range of collaborative commissioning opportunities where we work with our partners and stakeholders. Updates are noted below.

Collaborative Commissioning Opportunities	Update
Day opportunities for adults with learning disabilities - work with partners to consider place based approach and range of services available	Partnership approach to widen range of services available to people by extending use of Thornliebank/Barrhead Centres and joint working with Community Pathways. This has included external providers utilising both the spaces within the resource centres and the independent living skill packs prepared by enhance practice and develop independent living skills. Community Pathways offer a range of opportunities to individuals to engage in programmes of support including independent living skills, travel training, bikes workshop, brew crew (café skills with employability focus), jewellery making and gardening. Close joint working Voluntary Action which has provided opportunities for a wider cohort of individuals to engage with support within the Community Pathways settings.
Cross sector support for young people in periods of transition from school, home and independent living	Partnership events held with external partners to identify and work with new partners. Regular multi-agency meetings established with partners to support transitions. Commissioning and HSCP joint working undertaken to plan and scope out future demands and needs as part of transitions mapping and projected demands on services. Preparatory work being undertaken by Community Pathways ahead of young people transitioning into adult services. Use of Community Pathways for multi-agency working and use of twice monthly 'transitions hub' to offer shared working space focussed on transitions.
Post diagnostic support for people with dementia diagnosis	ER Dementia Strategy and Action Plan is in place. Coordination of services and support for post diagnostic support across HSCP, third and independent sector, to identify any gaps in support and develop more joint working opportunities.
Supported training opportunity for people with additional support needs through Café services in Eastwood and Barrhead HCC	Eastwood café operational from December 2023 and cohort of trainees in place and supported from January 2024. Joint working across third sector café and Community Pathways (Brew Crew) Team.
Asset mapping to understand local assets and reduce duplication of service	Review of Talking Points with greater alignment to Community Hub directory completed. Voluntary Action and HSCP currently reviewing the interaction between Your Voice, Talking Points and the Participation & Engagement Network.
Explore the feasibility and scope for a cross sector Housing Forum for East Renfrewshire	Initial meetings and draft Terms of Reference in place with housing colleagues and partners.
Collaboration on advice and information, providing shared language with consistent themes across directories and websites.	Review of Talking Points and alignment to Community Hub has strengthened access to advice and information. SPF sessions delivered to voluntary and independent sector partners with supporting literature available both online and through physical distribution. Participation & Engagement network continues to meet 6 weekly throughout the year.

Develop the market share split with external partners for care at home to meet demographic demands and achieve best value.	Work has commenced in the introduction of a local care at home framework to support market share across sectors as part of wider care at home redesign programme.
Carers short breaks – to explore options and consider collaborative opportunities to progress ideas/suggestions/actions	The Supporting People Framework introduced revised eligibility criteria for carers support. Carers Centre have employed an SDS Advisor and HSCP have matched this post with a Social Work practitioner to continue to explore and develop creative and personal short breaks and greater uptake of SDS option 1. Continue to consolidate the creative short breaks through our commissioning of the Carers Centre support in 2025.

22. The Commissioned Services Review continues to support services to undertake a collaborative review of care packages and to review grant funded initiatives with our external partners. Work continues to progress on grant funded initiatives, with a number of reviews completed contributing to the efficiency and savings targets during 2024/25. All of the updates on the work is reported through the Recovery and Renewal Programme and / or revenue monitoring reports to the IJB.
23. The Scotland Excel Care and Support Framework is the route East Renfrewshire use to purchase both care at home and supported living care for local residents. As we benchmarked across greater Glasgow and Clyde HSCPs, it was apparent that the hourly rates were overall at a lower rate than East Renfrewshire rates. The care at home programme board have recognised that the cost of care at home services purchased through the framework continued to increase both in volume and cost, also proving to be inflexible. It is our intention to implement a local care at home framework and work is underway with the service and ERC procurement to develop a tender for care at home services. This will offer greater market oversight and collaboration between services and local providers.
24. As part of the implementation of the Supporting People Framework, we continue to work with our third and independent sector partners to undertake reviews and to consider if any additional community supports are required. Our partners have demonstrated a commitment to work alongside the HSCP in the implementation, realignment of care packages and to consider where commissioned services may require to be revised to support any service changes.

CONCLUSION

25. This report recognises the contribution that partners make to the delivery of health and social care services. It sets out the financial costs and range of contractual arrangements currently in place to support our commissioning across the independent and third sector. The Commissioning Plan will be reviewed alongside the Strategic Plan to reflect collaborative commissioning opportunities and the commitment to involving partners, stakeholders and people in new service planning or redesign. It recognises progress made through the implementation of the Supporting People Framework in response to the current financial challenges and the participation of partners in our savings programme.

RECOMMENDATION

26. It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Committee note and comment on the arrangements in place to commission health and care services with external partners.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

PAC 27.09.2023 - Commissioned Services Annual Update
https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/media/9546/PAC-Item-11-27-September-2023/pdf/PAC_Item_11_-_27_September_2023.pdf?m=1695055582753

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