

Decision Report - Executive Decision

Forward Plan Reference: FP/23/10/10

Decision Date – 06/12/2023

Key Decision – yes

Confidential Information – no



Recommission - Learning Disabilities Open Framework (LDOF)

Executive Member(s): Cllr Dean Ruddle – Lead Member for Adult Social Care

Local Member(s) and Division: All

Lead Officer: Mel Lock – Executive Director, Adults and Health

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Summary / Background

1. This decision is to recommission the current Learning Disabilities Open Framework (LDOF) which allows Adults to purchase and contract care using a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). This mechanism promotes choice for the individuals receiving the support, promotes competition with providers in the local market and allows for an effective and efficient method of purchasing care. The current framework will be revised to expand market opportunities and to remove solely diagnosis specific options to move to a service led model.
2. The current framework needs to be recommissioned by 31st March 2024 due to both its term and maximum spend being reached, and therefore a system is required to ensure equity and stability of purchasing for the local authority that is compliant with procurement regulations. The recommissioning process allows for review and amendment of the current specifications and design of the DPS. This will include refining details within the specifications which may have caused issues or financial risk to the council, e.g., notice periods which will be tightened. The review of the documentation also allows for the addition and clarification of areas including quality standards, which promote value for money and market quality, and provides contracts and quality colleagues with strengthened documentation to ensure provider accountability.
3. The Service types to be included in the revised framework are:
 - Residential
 - Supported Living
 - Domiciliary care
 - Respite and Short Breaks
 - Day Opportunities and Community Outreach
 - Employment Support

4. The majority of the services listed above are commissioned on the basis of meeting individualised assessed eligible needs under the Care Act (2014). The only exception is Employment Support, which is a discretionary service that is commissioned to enable progression and promote independence, thereby reducing or delaying people accessing other, often more expensive, types of service or to help people move on from them. However, if a decision is made as part of the response to the Council's current financial emergency to decommission this service type then it will be suspended as a category from the Framework.
5. Each Service type has its own specification to promote outcome focused service delivery, promoting quality and effectiveness from services purchased. There are no diagnosis specific lots on the framework as the quality and management of services should be aligned to the specifications provided. This promotes market equitability and removes the sole focus of the framework being for adults with a Learning Disability.
6. Providers are required to complete a minimum two stage approval process, the first of which enquires around their business, their base in Somerset and ensuring their governance and business viability are appropriate. The second stage focuses on the business ethos and quality of service delivery with a set of questions requesting examples and evidence of good practice to be provided. This process ensures that the Council only contracts with appropriate and high quality providers and alongside the specifications provide documentation and standards of what providers have agreed and accepted to deliver and adhere by, should issues arise in future.
7. The scope of the framework is limited to the administrative boundaries of Somerset Council and does not include placements made outside of this or care commissioned using other frameworks or contractual mechanisms.

Recommendations

8. The Executive approve the recommission of the current Learning Disabilities Open Framework (to be re-named) as a revised / renewed Dynamic Purchasing System.

Reasons for recommendations

9. The council requires a purchasing system which ensures adherence to procurement law and promotes stable and effective purchasing processes for care and support across the county.
10. The current system and methods in place are working well. With the review and update of all specifications, terms and conditions and amendment to some of the

structure of the DPS, it is agreed by all that the system will continue to be the most appropriate.

11. The recommission of this DPS, does not incur any new spend or cost.
12. The revised system promotes effective market competition, value for money and assurances of service delivery from providers, through specifications and Terms and Conditions of the DPS.

Other options considered

13. No alternative options were considered. The current method and use of a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) is successfully working in Somerset and there is no option to do nothing and be without a procurement system in place.

Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan

14. The refinement, amendment and update of the existing service specifications within the framework have allowed clarification to be given to providers regarding things such as the ethos Somerset Council desires to be outcome focused, least restrictive and promoting independence including exploring community options instead of formal funded care/support. This promotes the experience for individuals receiving support but also promotes value for money for Somerset Council.
15. The effective use of a DPS promotes market competition through expressions of interest. This allows more choice for individuals and their families but also promotes quality of service and value for money for Somerset Council. Providers will need to be approved onto the framework and then compete to deliver the highest quality service whilst evidencing fair pricing and value for money. This purchasing system allows Somerset Council to ensure an upper pricing model to regulate the market and promote a diverse market of small, medium and large service providers.

Financial and Risk Implications

16. There is no new spend when considering the recommission of the framework itself as this is made on an individual basis for each person. The framework is a procurement, purchasing and contractual tool used to ensure best value for money, market competition and a choice of high quality opportunities for individuals receiving support. The framework promotes cost monitoring and review and promotes choice considering quality and price.
 - The proposed length of the framework a maximum of 10 years, comprised of an initial 5 year term and then a further opportunity to extend in stages up to 5 years (2+2+1). The expected gross spend on adults whose current services are encompassed by the existing framework during 2024/25 is £71m. This is not new spend. All new spending using the framework will be subject to a decision using the Councils process for authorising Adult Social Care packages of care.

- While the new framework would only be used to commission to new or replacement services (for example where someone’s needs change and they require a different type of care) from 01/04/2024 we would expect the maximum envelope of spend to be of sufficient size to enable it to be used for at least five years without needing to be recommissioned. For example, if we estimated a total new spend of £10m per annum the total value of a framework with a five-year lifespan would need to be £50m, plus an estimate of compound inflation during that period, in order for the framework to not need to be recommissioned earlier than anticipated.
- As part of the framework specifications, providers agree to Somerset Council using Care Cubed, a price benchmarking tool which utilises national data to ensure a fair cost of care is agreed. This promotes equity, value for money and market stability.
- There is no block element to this framework / DPS and any inflationary / annual uplifts are explored separately to the framework through the wider ASC Fees and Charges paper and decision making process.
- One of the conditions that providers will be required to agree to when registering for the recommissioned framework is the benchmarking of each care home or supported living package using the Council’s chosen benchmarking tool for care packages. This will allow any element of a package that the tool identifies as an outlier in terms of cost to be addressed with the care provider.
- The software that will be used to manage the framework has already been purchase by the Council and while the existing contributions to the licence will need to continue this does not represent a new cost

Please enter risk description					
If the Council does not have a contracting / procurement tool in place, the process would require individualised procurement activity, would risk losing market competition, sustainability, diversity and result in reduced value for money.					
Likelihood	5	Impact	4	Risk Score	20
A DPS system managed framework allows the Council to manage and oversee provider expectations. This allows for effective contract and quality monitoring alongside effective market shaping through outlining the ethos of the framework and services desired in Somerset.					

Legal Implications

17. 15. Legal Services have been approached to commence work regarding ensuring the current terms and conditions are appropriate, remain relevant and amendments made where appropriate to ensure they are effective for the duration of the contract.
18. 16. There is no contract to be awarded as the recommission is for a purchasing and contract system.
19. **HR Implications**

20. No HR implications.

Other Implications: None identified

Equalities Implications

21. The framework is an online procurement and purchasing tool, so equality impact implications are mitigated by the service specifications and terms and conditions.
22. The framework ethos and supporting specification documents highlight the importance of being outcome-focused, person-centred, promoting independence and in line with the Care Act 2014 principle, reducing and preventing the need for care and support.
23. The framework ethos and supporting documentation also promotes a significant positive impact on reducing health and social inequalities by supporting individuals to be as independent as possible, access universal services and to be part of their local community.
24. The appended Equalities Impact Assessment identifies potential negative impacts for protected groups receiving services which will be procured via this framework. The mitigating actions comprise the recommissioning process to develop and deliver the Framework in the way described, including review and revision of service specifications. These will be assessed in draft during ongoing engagement activity with individuals, carers, providers and colleagues.

Community Safety Implications

25. The framework is an online procurement and purchasing tool so there will be no direct community safety implications.
26. However, the revised service specifications have a focus on positive support providing independence focused, specialist support, supporting people to be valued and engaged with their community and work towards their life goals. This approach endeavours to provide dynamic support for the cohort of people who may present with anti-social behaviours or engage in criminal offences, resulting in reduced neighbourhood issues and crime rates.
27. The framework specifications promote and emphasise collaborative working is integral and essential for providers so all community initiatives can be included in joint working.

Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

28. 24. This Decision does not have a direct climate sustainability impact at all, as it is to commission an online procurement and purchasing tool, however the framework specification encourages providers to be aware of their carbon footprint and promotes positive action. E.g.
- Providers will be expected to take conscious actions to address things such as the miles in which staff drive promoting shared and public transport.
 - Providers are required to have a local Somerset base as part of the framework approval and therefore this promotes work opportunities and local recruitment within Somerset.
 - The framework promotes use of Somerset Council housing options which allows us to work collaboratively to forecast appropriately to ensure sustainable housing promises are met.
29. As above, the framework promotes and encourages local support and recruitment. As part of contract reviews, this can be discussed to explore how providers are running their business sustainably.
30. There is no direct impact on local planning and development as this decision is for procurement tool, however the nature of the framework promotes exploring local options including housing so collaborative working with colleagues within Somerset Council will be paramount to support the people with care needs this framework is utilised for.

Health and Safety Implications

31. As the recommission decision is for a Dynamic Purchasing System which is an online tool, there are no risks to health and safety associated.

Health and Wellbeing Implications

32. The recommission of a DPS framework has a significant positive impact on health and wellbeing as it promotes effective and appropriate sourcing and contracting of care and support services. The framework encourages choice and multiple 'expressions of interest' from providers to promote highest quality services are contracted for individuals.
33. The framework will have a significant positive impact on preventing ill-health (physical and mental health). The framework ethos and supporting specification documents highlight the importance of being outcome-focused, promoting independence and in line with the Care Act 2014 principle, reducing and preventing the need for care and support.
34. The framework ethos and supporting documentation promotes a significant positive impact on reducing health and social inequalities by supporting individuals

to be as independent as possible, access universal services and to be part of their local community.

35. The positive impacts stated above will be most effective for certain population groups including (but not limited to); adults with a learning disability, adults with mental ill-health, adults with autism, adults with an acquired brain injury, adults with physical disabilities and adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Social Value

36. A DPS which promotes market competition and quality promotes a developing employment infrastructure and promotes highly skilled and trained staff providing services to the cohort of people in which this framework is designed for.
37. The ethos of the framework specifications is focused on improving health and wellbeing, maintaining independence and reducing inequalities of local residents and employees.
38. The framework ethos and revised structure creates, promotes and supports opportunities for small and medium enterprises to be part of supply chains which support Somerset Council priorities and service delivery. Frameworks can be laborious and difficult to manage for smaller organisations without dedicated teams focusing on them. We have revised processes to encourage and support smaller providers activity and opportunities on the framework.
39. Providers as part of their business sustainability are encouraged to consider and reduce air pollution, particularly in urban areas, when and how staff are travelling around the county.
40. A DPS promotes supplier diversity, market competition and therefore drives up quality.

Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

41. The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee is being consulted on this paper and this section will be updated with their response.
42. In The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee's absence, this paper was sent directly to Cllr David Fothergill for consultation, who signed off the paper to go to Executive Decision.

Background

43. SC currently commissions care through a framework DPS, the "Learning Disabilities Open Framework", operating through a Dynamic Purchasing System which covers the existing 'lots'. This system is working well but requires updating, and amendment throughout the process for providers and SC, as well as expansion to

cover people who do not have a learning disability but would benefit from the commissioning approach used by the framework, in order to futureproof the method in which SC commissions care.

44. The current framework is named the Learning Disability Open Framework although it operates services which support people across cohorts including but not limited to; mental health, dementia day service, profound and multiple learning disabilities, physical disabilities, acquired brain injury and Autism. Therefore, a new name and a focus to move away from diagnosis only services, towards outcome / care delivery, is considered proactive for development and allows provisions such as supported living schemes to be more freely utilised and reduce vacant / untenanted services.
45. The questions and requirements for providers to sign up to the framework require updating to strengthen the emphasis on the quality, individual's choice, provider registration and specialism requirements, and the overall Somerset direction of care commissioning. This will also enable the Council's Adult Social Care quality and contracts team to have updated terms and conditions to support their work, be able obligations within the framework, for example in relation to notice periods where a provider wishes to give notice for convenience.
46. The recommission of this framework will allow an opportunity for SC to truly co-produce and involve experts through experience in the design and structure of the service design including quality standards and aims. The review of documentation, process and procedure allows a great opportunity for true co-production.
47. Services will need to be:
 - Outcome focused, and enhance what the Individual, their carer and family can do for themselves, and will promote independence.
 - Need and outcome led, moving away from solely diagnosis focused support services / provisions
 - Understanding of the framework service area they are offering support in, and the quality and governance expectations outlined in the specification for each service area.
48. The Assessment will help people to understand their strengths and capabilities within the context of their situation, the support available to them in the community and through other networks and services as well as exploring some of the ways that the Local Authority may be able to help (such as through prevention services or signposting).
49. The Local Authority role is seen as critical and under section 5 of the Care Act, the duty to shape and maintain an efficient and effective market of services for meeting care and support needs in the local area is firmly placed with Somerset Council. A commissioning and procurement framework promotes choice, value for money, healthy market competition and drives up quality of provider services.




Background Papers

Assurance checklist

	Officer Name	Date Completed
Legal & Governance Implications	David Clark	24/11/23
Communications	Peter Elliott	28/11/2023
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix	28/11/2023
Workforce	Alyn Jones	28/11/2023
Asset Management	Oliver Woodhams	24/11/23
Executive Director / Senior Manager	Mel Lock	27/11/2023
Strategy & Performance	Alyn Jones	28/11/2023
Executive Lead Member	Dean Ruddle	24/11/2023
Consulted:	Councillor Name	
Local Division Members	Fran Smith	24/11/2023
Opposition Spokesperson	Sue Osborne	27/11/2023
Scrutiny Chair	Gill Slocombe (in Cllr Slocombe's absence, sent to Cllr David Fothergill and signed off)	28/11/2023

Somerset Equality Impact Assessment

Before completing this EIA please ensure you have read the EIA guidance notes – available from your Equality Officer or
www.somerset.gov.uk/impactassessment

Organisation prepared for (mark as appropriate)	 Somerset Council	x	 NHS Somerset	 NHS Somerset <small>NHS Foundation Trust</small>
Version	2	Date Completed	02/11/23	
Description of what is being impact assessed				
<p>The ‘Learning Disabilities Open Framework’ is a dynamic purchasing system used to procure services for adults with Learning Disabilities. It has been in place since 2015 and has over 200 providers registered. A re-commissioning exercise is to be undertaken to give an opportunity to improve the quality, effectiveness and robustness of the care and support services that are commissioned using it in order to ensure they are fit for the future. The Local Authority role is seen as critical and under section 5 of the Care Act, the duty to shape and maintain an efficient and effective market of services for meeting care and support needs in the local area is firmly placed with Somerset Council.</p>				
Evidence				
<p>What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups? Sources such as the Office of National Statistics, Somerset Intelligence Partnership, Somerset’s Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA), Staff and/ or area profiles, should be detailed here</p>				
<p>The independent regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), produces an annual assessment of health care and adult social care. The latest national report, published in November 2022, highlighted several trends including recognition that, “<i>Inequalities pervade and persist across large parts of health and social care. It is vital that everyone, inclusively, has good quality care, and equal access, experience and outcomes from health and social care services.</i>” Somerset Council want people with a learning disability, autism, or both, to have the same</p>				

opportunities as anyone else to live healthy, satisfying, and valued lives. Council's aspiration is that people will be supported to progress and gain new skills, with a focus on their individual outcomes, avoiding overly paternalistic approaches. Our view is that residential care services are not the best option for young people transitioning to adult services, and that they should instead be supported to remain as close to their families and communities as possible. Where residential care is considered, this should be within, or as close to, Somerset as possible. Home care, day opportunities and supported living for people with learning disabilities is commissioned using the Learning Disabilities Open Framework. The Framework is in the process of being recommissioned with the new arrangements commencing in April 2024. It is the Council's intention that the new framework will be the procurement approach that is used to commission bespoke support for anyone who needs, it and will therefore not be limited only to people with learning disabilities.

Providers have a responsibility to ensure that services are accessible to all and are designed to meet the needs of the local population. Ethnicity must be considered through the protected characteristic of race. Levels of ethnicity are hard to measure due to ethnicity not being a single measure but a composite measure of many different factors that make up an individual or community. Also, the proportions of different ethnic groups in an area can change quickly. The most reliable estimates for ethnicity within Somerset are the 2021 census figures, revealing that the vast majority of the resident Somerset population is White with only 3.6% from all other ethnic groups combined. 8.7% of the Somerset population were from an ethnic group other than White: British. NHS England South West observe that, "*Two decades of literature has acknowledged that the intersection of ethnicity and disability, two marginalised identities in society, results in compounded discrimination. Discrimination exacerbates inequalities in relation to health outcomes and healthcare among people from these groups.*" [We deserve better: Ethnic minorities with a learning disability and access to healthcare –summary of findings' 2023 NHS Race and Health Observatory & UCLA]

The population of Somerset is both rising and ageing and has the potential for significantly increased demand for health and care services with a decreasing working age population. While an ageing population is presenting challenges globally, there are a number of local factors that are likely to have a disproportional impact in Somerset. There are other particular age considerations within the scope of this Framework, such as people with learning disabilities or mental ill health living longer and the resultant need for specific provision such as dementia support tailored to their needs.

Census 2021 data informs us that more than 100,000 Somerset residents have their day-to-day activities limited to some extent due to disability or a long-term health condition. This represents 18.7% of Somerset residents, or nearly one in five. These individuals would meet the definition of being disabled under the Equality Act. A further 45,000 Somerset residents (7.9% of all residents) have a long-term health condition which does not limit their day-to-day activities. There were around 50,000 Somerset residents who were providing unpaid care to a friend or relative at the time of the 2021 census. Of those, 26,000 – or 30% - provide more than 50 hours of care each week, although it is reasonably assumed that this is an underestimate due to a decrease in self-reporting following the Covid pandemic.

Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups and what have they told you? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?

The recommissioning process includes engagement activity which will involve consultation with internal colleagues and providers. The Framework is a Dynamic Purchasing System which is not accessed directly by service users or carers, so their consultation on the process/'back office' elements is neither necessary nor appropriate. However, the recommissioning process includes a complete review of service specifications which providers joining the Framework will be required to operate in accordance with. The 'quality' elements of these specifications (e.g., '*individuals will be treated with respect*') will be presented for individuals in a Charter format. There will be consultation on the contents and use of this by the people who will be receiving services and their carers/families, known and acknowledged as '*experts by experience*'. Any possible impacts on protected groups identified through all consultation activity, will be considered by the Recommissioning Board, in order to plan to remove or mitigate the impact.

At the time of this report, a total of 26 individuals have been engaged (comprised of 18 people who use services and 8 support workers/carers). Taking the approach of inviting people to talk about their experiences of care or support, has enabled us to verify that the quality aspects of the service specifications reflect what is important to them. A recurring theme from all the engagement activity to date has been the importance of providers getting to know the people they support or care for. The experts by experience have all expressed that a failure to do this would negatively impact on them, due to their respective disabilities requiring them to be treated according to their needs, recognising different communication preferences and their strengths as well as support or care requirements. Focussing on communication, needs and strengths, being respectful and really getting to know the people they care for/support, requires providers to take a diversity approach, treating people according to their needs. As such, this is equally applicable to all protected groups and not only disability. The people we have engaged with recognised the quality elements shared with them as reflecting this, which in turn endorses our approach to mitigating possible impact on protected groups.

Analysis of impact on protected groups

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, make an assessment of the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The specification will reflect and respond to the full range of needs of people irrelevant of age. Providers will need to ensure that individual outcomes are meet in a variety of ways. 	□	□	☒
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The services covered by the framework currently supports a large number of people with a range of disabilities, primarily learning disabilities. The ethos will continue to be to support people to remain/become as independent as possible. The specification will therefore require the provider to reflect and respond to the full range of needs of people with disabilities, based on supporting people to remain as independent as possible within their own home. 	□	□	☒
Gender reassignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impacts identified. The service specification will require the service provider to conduct its business in accordance with the principles of the care and support being focussed on enabling people to live independently, to stay healthy and make the most of their lives by managing their lives in the way they choose and to not discriminate 	□	☒	□

<p>Marriage and civil partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are occasionally restrictions within certain services (e.g., due to tenancy/licence stipulations) which impact on married couples or those in Civil Partnerships, by precluding them from living together. The Framework being recommissioned is a procurement tool to look at the whole market and therefore enables different options to be explored to support people with a trusted provider. • The service specification will require the service provider to conduct its business in accordance with the principles of the care and support being focussed on enabling people to live independently, to stay healthy and make the most of their lives by managing their lives in the way they choose and to not discriminate. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are occasionally restrictions within certain services (e.g., due to tenancy/licence stipulations) which impact on pregnant women or parents, by precluding shared living opportunities. The Framework being recommissioned is a procurement tool to look at the whole market and therefore enables different options to be explored to support people with a trusted provider. • The service specification will require the service provider to conduct its business in accordance with the principles of the care and support being focussed on enabling people to live independently, to stay healthy and make the most of their lives by managing their lives in the way they choose and to not discriminate. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Race and ethnicity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People from different backgrounds and of a different race may need to have information and support provided in a range of formats. The service specification will therefore include a requirement for the provider to ensure that the information about the service will need to be made available in a variety of formats to suit individual needs. Also, attention will be given to how care and support is delivered in order to achieve the outcomes agreed by the individual and tailored to suit their individual needs. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Religion or belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Framework being recommissioned is a procurement tool to look at the whole market and therefore enables different options to be explored to support people with a trusted provider. This provides the opportunity to meet needs pertaining to religion or belief such as being near a place of worship or residing/accessing services in a particular locality • People with different religions or beliefs may need to receive information in a variety of formats. The service specification will therefore include a requirement for the provider to ensure that the information about the service will need to be made available in a variety of formats to suit individual needs. Also, attention will be given to how care and support is delivered in order to achieve the outcomes agreed by the individual and tailored to suit their individual needs. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impacts identified. The procurement of services is solely focused on a person's needs, outcomes and preference / choice and supporting service specifications support this, regardless of a person's sex. • The service specification will require the service provider to conduct its business in accordance with the principles of the care and support being focussed on enabling people to live independently, to stay healthy and make the most of their lives by managing their lives in the way they choose and to not discriminate. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The procurement of services is solely focused on a person's needs, outcomes and preference / choice and supporting service specifications support this, regardless of a person's sexual orientation. • The service specification will require the service provider to conduct its business in accordance with the principles of the care and support being focussed on enabling people to live independently, to stay healthy and make the most of their lives by managing their lives in the way they choose and to not discriminate. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Armed Forces (including serving personnel, families and veterans)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service is open to all people who have been assessed as having a care need via an Adult Social Care Assessment. Although those on low incomes are more likely to receive help than those on higher incomes, the gap between the need for help and receipt of help is widest for those on low incomes. Somerset has both areas of deprivation and of affluence. Social care offerings may need to be adjusted to ensure that those in low-income areas are getting the support they need. The approach to the re-commissioning of the Framework includes the removal of diagnosis only and to be led by needs and outcomes. Within the service specification the provider will be required to ensure that people will have the best possible quality of life, including life with other family members supported in a caring role. 	□	⊗	□
Other, e.g. carers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service is open to all people who have been assessed as having a care need via an Adult Social Care Assessment. Although those on low incomes are more likely to receive help than those on higher incomes, the gap between the need for help and receipt of help is widest for those on low incomes. Somerset has both areas of deprivation and of affluence. Social care offerings may need to be adjusted to ensure that those in low-income areas are getting the support they need. The approach to the re-commissioning of the Framework includes the removal of diagnosis only and to be led by needs and outcomes. Within the service specification the provider will be required to ensure that people will have the best possible quality of life, including life with other family members supported in a caring role. 	□	□	⊗

Negative outcomes action plan

Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.

Action taken/to be taken	Date	Person responsible	How will it be monitored?	Action complete
The Framework being recommissioned is a procurement tool to look at the whole market and therefore enables different options	01/04/2024	GB	The recommissioning process will develop and deliver the	□

to be explored to support people with a trusted provider. The approach to the re-commissioning of the Framework includes the removal of diagnosis only and to be led by needs and outcomes. This provides the opportunity to meet a diverse range of needs.			Framework in the way described.	
Service Specification to ensure that information and support is provided in a range of format to suit needs, irrelevant of age, ethnicity or race and ensuring that there is attention to the diversity of the individual and with sensitivity to cultural issues.	01/04/2024	GB	The recommissioning process will develop and deliver the Framework in the way described, including review and revision of service specifications which will be assessed in draft during ongoing engagement activity with individuals, carers, providers and colleagues.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service Specification to ensure all necessary information on the service is available in different languages and will support people with learning disabilities or with speech, language and other communication needs.	01/04/2024	GB	The recommissioning process will develop and deliver the Framework in the way described, including review and revision of service specifications which will be assessed in draft during ongoing engagement activity with individuals, carers, providers and colleagues.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Service Specification must focus on enabling people to be live the life they choose and feel supported to do so.	01/04/2024	GB	The recommissioning process will develop and deliver the Framework in the way described, including review and revision of service specifications which will be assessed in draft during ongoing engagement activity with individuals, carers, providers and colleagues.	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>The service specification and reporting requirements will include specific information to ensure that the provider does not discriminate against anyone regarding the choices they make about how to live their lives.</p>	<p>01/04/2024</p>	<p>GB</p>	<p>The recommissioning process will develop and deliver the Framework in the way described, including review and revision of service specifications which will be assessed in draft during ongoing engagement activity with individuals, carers, providers and colleagues.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>The Service specification must include flexibility of when support is provided that is tailored to meet individual needs.</p>	<p>01/04/2024</p>	<p>GB</p>	<p>The recommissioning process will develop and deliver the Framework in the way described, including review and revision of service specifications which will be assessed in draft during ongoing engagement activity with individuals, carers, providers and colleagues.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Providers will be required to be registered with appropriate bodies (e.g., CQC, Ofsted) as appropriate to the type of care or support being provided.</p>	<p>01/04/2024</p>	<p>GB</p>	<p>The recommissioning process will develop and deliver the Framework in the way described, including review and revision of service specifications which will be assessed in draft during ongoing engagement activity with individuals, carers, providers and colleagues.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>All providers will be required to undertake diversity and equality training as a minimum.</p>	<p>01/04/2024</p>	<p>GB</p>	<p>The recommissioning process will develop and deliver the Framework in the way described, including review and revision of service specifications</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

			which will be assessed in draft during ongoing engagement activity with individuals, carers, providers and colleagues.	
If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.				
Completed by:	George Bray			
Date	16/11/2023			
Signed off by:	Paul Coles			
Date	20/11/2023			
Equality Lead sign off name:	Tom Rutland			
Equality Lead sign off date:	24/11/2023			
To be reviewed by: (officer name)				
Review date:				

