

# Somerset Independent Advocacy Service

Executive Meeting 02/12/24



# Recommendation for Executive to approve

- ❖ Endorse the procurement process and approve contract award.
- ❖ Approve the commissioning of the successful bidder for an initial period of 5 years with an option to extend by 3.
- ❖ Agree the case for applying the exempt information provision (Local Government Act 1972) to treat confidential appendix B in confidence.
- ❖ Agree to exclude the press and the public from the meeting where there is any discussion regarding the confidential tender evaluation report (Appendix B)

# Statutory Duties and Service Provision

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- ❖ Somerset Council needs to establish a contractual arrangement with an independent organisation to deliver a robust and independent advocacy service as per our statutory duty which is freely accessible to anyone that meets the eligibility criteria.
- ❖ **Statutory Advocacy(as defined by the Care Act):** Statutory advocacy that meets the requirements of the Care Act 2014 and associated regulations in supporting people who would otherwise:
  - experience substantial difficulty in being fully involved in assessment, care and support planning, review and safeguarding processes.
  - where there is no one appropriate available to support and represent their wishes.
- ❖ The current contract is due to come to an end on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

# Funding

## Agreed spend April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 202

A competitive and robust tendering process was entered into from December 2023 and placed onto the e-tendering system, Proactis, published 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, to allow sufficient time for the contracts to be awarded on 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2025 including the necessary standstill period, and for the successful provider to put TUPE arrangements in place, as appropriate.

The Authority intends to enter into a Contract for an initial period of 60 months (5 years), with an option to extend by mutual agreement for up to a further 36 (3 years) months.

- Annual budget for the service is £655,524.
- Cost for 5 years being £3,277,620.00.
- Total cost for the full 8 years would be £5,244,192.00.

# Key Outcomes for People

People using this service will continue to

- ❖ experience a seamless service
- ❖ The views of service users are identified, voiced and heard
- ❖ Individuals are involved in decisions about their care and support
- ❖ Individuals are empowered to speak up for themselves
- ❖ Individuals have great control of their own lives

