

## Shropshire Council Adult Social Care

### Market Position Statement Update Autumn 2020

Shropshire Council want to work closely with our markets as we head towards what is likely to be a challenging winter. We are waiting to find out about the Governments intentions for additional funding for providers though the winter period and we will be informing our markets more about that as soon as we know.



We know there are so many challenges for you in regards Covid, at present particularly about funding, testing and work volumes and occupancy and we want to help as much as we can. We will keep you posted on all developments though our weekly information bulletins.

The care market is changing with many more people wanting to stay at home and we want to work with our provider market to support them to be creative and diverse as we move forward into new territory. We are looking to the future to create different kinds of services, partnerships and solutions and are working closely with Shropshire Partners in Care to develop this.

We also wanted to inform you about our current commissioning intentions for the winter period and we will be engaging with all the relevant sections of the market about the following schemes in the next few weeks:

- ★ **Stand up beds** - In the next few weeks we will be talking to Care home markets about the commissioning of 'Stand up beds' These are contracts for additional beds though the winter period that may be needed due to potential surges in demand. Current modelling shows that there may be surges in the late part of this year and early next year. We will be commissioning blocks of 2/3 different types of beds which will be Based on retainer contracts which can be 'stood up' at full price if needed. We will be putting an Expression of interest out to the care home market early in October.
- ★ **Working with the Care home market/ domiciliary care to outreach too hard to reach areas** We will be running a Pilot of day and night care in the community in the South west of the County and we want to talk to Care homes and domiciliary care providers about new ways of working. This is a difficult area for us to get domiciliary care in the community so we want to talk to Care homes in the area as well as domiciliary care providers who can offer services in the area about ideas on how we can address the shortfall using capacity that our current provider market has rather than recruiting new providers. Working with Care Homes in rural communities to provide care and support could provide a rural base, possibly creating partnerships with Local Dom Care agencies. This would add resilience to Dom Care and Care home market, limiting staff movement and help the Council meet care needs. We will be communicating with providers in the area in the next few weeks and sending out invites to join a discussion about how we develop this exciting new service.
- ★ **Live in care** - This was Funded in the winter plan of 2019/20- and we now have a thriving framework of live in care providers who all came from our current domiciliary care market. This project will be continuing in the coming winter to support and enhance Pathway 1 discharges and to support Admission Avoidance.
- ★ **MH/LD rates project/ pilot** - over the coming months we will be looking at costing model options, for in and out of County MH and LD placements (different models may apply). IN the new year we will be organising market consultation and planning and implementing a pilot to look at the rates model across the market.
- ★ **Block beds contracts** - Some of our block bed contracts will be coming up in the next six months and we will be reviewing what we want to commission in the future. We know that the care market is changing, and we will be engaging with Shropshire Partners in Care (SPiC) and our providers to look at how we can work differently in the future.
- ★ **Respite review** - With the pandemic changing many things about care options for respite may need to change. At the moment we mainly commission beds in care homes for respite. A Respite options paper being presented to DMT in October which will include consideration of other ideas for respite.

## Supported Living Services

In Shropshire we now have approx. 200 individuals living across approx. 100 Supported Living properties in Shropshire with another 2 services recently tendered.

As you will be aware our current framework of care and support providers for supported living is due to expire in October 2020. This framework was to support individuals with a Learning Disability and/or Autism, the framework was set up for 5 years and was a closed framework. As the framework was coming to an end, we saw an opportunity to redesign this and enable us to increase the number of provider we are able to contract with, in particular those who are able to support individuals with complex needs.

## **New Framework development**

We are working with our colleagues in health and Telford and Wrekin Council and we plan to purchase future supported living provider services through an open framework. Providers will be required to demonstrate their ability to deliver quality services in order to be accredited onto the framework, through an invitation to tender process. The framework will be opened intermittently to allow new providers to join, and any provider who is accredited by one organisation- Shropshire and Telford Clinical commissioning Group (CCG), Shropshire Council or Telford and Wrekin Council, will automatically be accredited by each of these organisations, therefore increasing the number and variety of providers in the market, but also increasing opportunities for providers who currently only work with one organisation. The service specification for the framework will specify 2 different levels of care and support, therefore clearly identifying the different levels of support a provider is able to offer. The principles of the new framework are set out below:

- ★ To support individuals with a variety of needs, including Learning Disabilities, Autism, Mental Health needs or those with a dual diagnosis – multiple diagnoses.
- ★ Embrace the proactive approach to supporting individuals.
- ★ Manage risk.
- ★ Reduce the issues around availability of support.
- ★ Reduce the number of packages handed back.
- ★ To improve the continuity of care.
- ★ Embed Positive Behaviour Support.
- ★ Embrace benefits of Technology Enabled Care, learning together.
- ★ Provide joint arrangements - Make it easier for providers to operate across the area.
- ★ To enable partnership working, develop learning outcomes, and ensure continuous improvement.
- ★ Fair and transparent fees.

Both Councils are seeking to adopt a flexible contracting arrangement (FCA) to source care and support:

- ★ The FCA will require an in-depth accreditation process to qualify.
- ★ The FCA accreditation process will be open every quarter to allow new entrants to any of the Categories.
- ★ Providers will only need to sign up to the FCA once.
- ★ Providers who sign up to Shropshire FCA will automatically be included in Telford's opportunities and vice versa.

It is anticipated that the FCA will go Live on 1st February 2021, subject to change.

## Developing our Assistive Technology Offer



In addition to the above Shropshire Council have begun a specific piece of work looking at the use of assistive technology in supported living schemes. The project is to develop and implement the use of advanced Assistive Technologies across the Supported Living schemes, in a bid to increase levels of independence, facilitate learning, manage risks and reduce the dependency on paid support where appropriate and safe to do so.

Our Assistive Technology lead has been reviewing a variety of Assistive Technology available from various suppliers and is working with our current framework providers to look at which schemes may benefit from these types of technological solutions. We are then working closer with providers and care practitioners to arrange for this technology to be tried with individuals where it has and will be identified as of benefit to them. Please get in touch if you would like to know more about this project.

## Housing Development

In Shropshire we continue to lack access to suitable housing schemes for individual with complex needs, which means they are having to be placed out of county in high cost placements. You may have seen recently in the local media that we have been given approval to submit planning to build an 8 bedded supported living unit at [Greenacres Farm](#) in the Baschurch area of Shropshire. If successful this scheme will be the first of its kind as a Passive House [PassivHaus](#) model. We will be looking for both care providers to provide the support to the individuals and also to a housing provider to lease the scheme to when it is complete. We are hoping this development will be completed in the summer of 2022, which may be subject to change and is reliant on planning consent being granted.



We continue to work with registered Housing Providers, developers and our colleagues in planning and policy to look at investment in new housing scheme that can meet the needs of individuals, and we are also focusing on increasing the supported accommodation available to those with Mental health needs, as we have identified that the perfected model to support individuals is by providing individual flats with access to support and the option on a sleep in facility in the premises for those who need increased support.

We would envisage the framework that is being developed to also incorporate an accreditation process for registered housing providers so that we can source care and accommodation in the same way.

We continue to look at our accommodation voids, though we have few, through a monthly accommodation forum, attended by practitioners from OT, Housing and community social care teams, adults with supporting living needs are discussed in relation to opportunities available within the voids, but also to identify gaps in available accommodation and care. Through the forum it has been possible to raise the profiles of individuals and explore if there are possibilities to match people, which practitioners can then action in respect of arranging meetings with each other, visiting properties etc. We then use current framework to procure the care for these individuals once we have the accommodation.

Our Senior Social Worker Lead for Preparing for Adulthood also facilitates matching for this cohort for supported living and works closely with the accommodation forum and accommodation lead to source appropriate properties for young people to live in their communities. The Preparation for Adulthood teamwork with officers from Housing to enable identification of individual young people who will wish or can be supported to move on to living independently.

## Preventative Services

### **Spot purchase of day opportunities activity for adults with learning and physical disabilities**

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the delivery of Shropshire's day services has been significant and sustained. Social distancing and other restrictions designed to reduce the infection and transmission of Covid mean that the building-based group activities that many people are accustomed to taking part in to learn, develop new skills and socialise are now less viable. It is clear that it will not be possible for us to return to 'normal' pre-Covid services and activities and that creative alternatives are required.

In the coming weeks we will be organising a Day Opportunities 'Big Conversation', to bring together everyone involved and interested in ensuring that there continues to be accessible, high quality, meaningful and appropriate activities that are Covid-secure and resilient to restrictions and any potential local lockdown. We would like all current and potential providers to join the conversation and contribute to the future design of delivery and funding models. Keep an eye on the council website for more information.

We already want to see things done differently to support the people we work with to live their best life. We are looking for creative, modern and flexible activities and opportunities that are person-centred, develop skills, independence and confidence and are communities focused. These could encompass virtual and digital activities, evening and weekend activities, shorter sessions during the day where people attend to do something specific that they really enjoy and benefit from, supporting people to do things in their community individually, partnerships with community groups to take part in a range of activity and organised activities that promote health and well-being.