

	<b>Adults and Safeguarding Committee</b> <b>23 January 2017</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Extension of the Later Life Planning Service Contract</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Commissioning Director Adults and Health
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Karina Vidler, Commissioning Lead, Joint Commissioning Unit <a href="mailto:karina.vidler@barnet.gov.uk">karina.vidler@barnet.gov.uk</a> 020 8359 4559

## Summary

This report recommends acceptance of an extension of the contract between the Council and Age UK Barnet for the provision of the Later Life Planning service, for one year from 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

Age UK Barnet has provided the Later Life Planning service successfully since April 2014. The service is part of the Council's prevention and early support offer, delivering flexible and holistic information, advice and signposting to enable those approaching and in old age to plan for their future. It supports people to plan ways to sustain or improve their own wellbeing and independence into old age. The contract supports the meeting of Council priorities and the implementation of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Performance targets are being met and the contract provides social value. The Committee's acceptance of the recommended contract extension is required by the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

The Later Life Planning service was originally commissioned in 2014 as a new service model, with the intention of testing out the need for advice for those approaching older age to plan for later life. As the Barnet Neighbourhood day services for older people (delivered by a consortium of voluntary organisations and led by Age UK Barnet) have developed, the

Later Life Planning service has become an integral part of this model and operates alongside its other elements. The extension to the Later Life Planning service contract is being requested in order that this service can be re-procured at the same time as the other elements of Barnet's day services for older people.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. That the Committee approve acceptance of an extension of the contract between the Council and Age UK Barnet for the provision of a Later Life Planning service for one year from 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.**

### **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 The Council's contract with Age UK Barnet for the provision of a Later Life Planning service ends on 31 March 2017. This report requests the Committee's approval of acceptance of an extension of the contract for one year to 31 March 2018. The Committee's acceptance of the proposed contract extension is required by the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 1.2 The Later Life Planning service was originally commissioned in 2014 as a new service model, with the intention of testing out the need for advice for those approaching older age to plan for later life. However, as the Barnet Neighbourhood day services for older people have developed and grown, the Later Life Planning service has become an integral part of the wider Neighbourhood services and operates alongside its other elements. The extension to the Later Life Planning service contract is being requested in order that it can be re-commissioned at the same time as the other elements of Barnet's Neighbourhood day services for older people.
- 1.3 The Barnet Neighbourhood day services model provides a range of activities across Barnet, catering for different needs and interests. The services include a wide range of social, educational and exercise activities to enable people to stay healthy, active and independent and to increase their wellbeing. The services are provided by a consortium of local voluntary organisations, led by Age UK Barnet. The model has been very successful in terms of increasing participation in day activities by older people and in increasing volunteering in the services.

### **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Later Life Planning service provides flexible and holistic information, advice and signposting to enable older people to plan for their future. It supports people to plan ways to sustain or improve their own wellbeing and independence into old age. The Later Life Planning service works with people

to navigate various services and statutory bodies, supporting them in accessing specialised services such as financial planning, housing, legal, debt management and end of life planning. The service supports people to remain at home in the community for longer, having planned for their later life.

- 2.2 The service meets a number of the Council's strategic priorities and is an initiative that reduces demand on other services by enabling older people to maintain independence and remain living in their home for longer. The service supports the Council's new strengths-based model of adult social care with its focus on prevention and early intervention and strengths-based practice.
- 2.3 The service helps the Council meet the duty placed on Local Authorities by the Care Act 2014 to establish and maintain a service for providing people in its area with information and advice relating to care and support for adults and support for carers. The Council also commissions other information and advice services in respect of this duty.
- 2.4 A desktop review of the service conducted in November 2016 has evidenced that it is meeting its objectives. The service is delivering outcomes related to:
  - service users being empowered to make informed decisions
  - service users being supported to plan anticipating later life needs and reducing dependency on statutory services
  - service users understanding and making best use of resources available to them
  - service users having a positive experience of the service.

Performance targets are being exceeded. In 2015/16 the service supported 1,161 Barnet residents through telephone calls, office based appointments and drop-ins, and home visits. Age UK Barnet has set out plans which will deliver enhanced value during the proposed period of contract extension.

- 2.5 Service user feedback is positive, as detailed in 5.7.1.
- 2.6 In delivering the service, Age UK Barnet is meeting national best practice standards, specifically those relating to the Department of Health's Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Age UK's Information and Advice for Older People Evidence Review and the King's Fund Volunteering in Health and Care Report (2013).
- 2.7 As the service aligns closely with the Neighbourhood Services commissioned by the Council, also provided by Age UK Barnet, extending the contract will allow efficiencies and synergies arising from the close working of the services to continue.
- 2.8 In 2016, Council officers reviewed all the prevention services it currently commissions to ensure that they are evidence based and provide maximum value for investment. The review evidenced that the Later Life Planning service addresses key triggers for needing adult social care, provides value for money when compared to other similar services or activities, and does not duplicate other provision. The review also evidenced that contract performance is robust.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 Ending the contract without an alternative offer is not recommended, in order to ensure that the benefits delivered by this prevention service continue to be realised.
- 3.2 Re-procurement of the service for a single year is not recommended as this would involve significant cost to the Council, when the current provider is meeting objectives.

### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Following the Committee decision, a Deed of Extension will be issued by HB Public Law.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

#### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The service supports the Council's Corporate Plan 2015 – 20, which states that the Council, working with local, regional and national partners, will strive to ensure that Barnet is a place:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- where responsibility is shared, fairly
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.

- 5.1.2 The service supports the Barnet Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015 - 2020 in its aims of helping people to keep well and promote independence.

- 5.1.3 Barnet's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment shows that the borough's over-65 population is forecast to grow three times faster than the overall population between 2015 and 2030, and the rate increases in successive age bands. The over-65 population will grow by 34.5% by 2030, whereas the 85 and over population will increase by 66.6%.

#### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 The contract value of the extension is £150,000, as shown below:

<b>Value of original contract</b>	<b>Value of extension</b>	<b>Total value of extended contract</b>
£450,000	£150,000	£600,000

- 5.2.2 The sum of £150,000 will be allocated from the Council's Better Care Fund allocation 2017/18 to fully meet the cost of the contract extension.

- 5.2.3 In planning to utilise the Better Care Fund as set out above, the Council

acknowledges that final local allocations of the national Better Care Fund for 2017/18, including that for Barnet, are currently unknown. The implications of this uncertainty at national level are considered in 5.5.2.

5.2.4 The Contract Procedure Rules have been adhered to. The extension to the contract has been authorised through the Procurement Forward Plan 2016/17 approved by the Policy and Resources Committee.

### 5.3 **Social Value**

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

5.3.2 The Later Life Planning service delivers significant social value, building social capacity through the involvement of volunteers. In 2015/16 volunteers provided over 700 hours to the service, increasing the number of residents that the service was able to support.

### 5.4 **Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.1 The responsibilities of the Adults and Safeguarding Committee are contained within the Council's Constitution – Section 15 Responsibility for Functions (Annex A). Specific responsibilities include: to be responsible for those powers, duties and functions of the Council in relation to Adults and Communities, and the following specific function:

- Authorise procurement activity within the remit of the Committee and any acceptance of variations or extensions if within budget in accordance with the responsibilities and thresholds set out in Contract Procedure Rules.

5.4.2 This extension is sought pursuant to Section 15.1 (b) of the Contract Procedure Rules. Section 15.1 (b) permits an extension without triggering a new procurement exercise where a change of contractor can not realistically be made for economical or technical reasons and where any change made would cause significant inconvenience to the Council. This is subject to the requirement that each change does not increase the contract's value by more than 50%.

5.4.3 The extension complies with the requirements of Section 15.1 (b).

5.4.4 The conditions set out under Section 15.5 of the Contract Procedure Rules are met.

5.4.5 The extension has been authorised through the Annual Procurement Forward Plan 2016/17 approved by the Policy and Resources Committee.

5.4.6 To comply with Authorisation and Acceptance Thresholds set out in Appendix 1 Table A of the Contract Procedure Rules, Adults and Safeguarding Committee acceptance of the contract extension is required.

### 5.5 **Risk Management**

5.5.1 The contract extension is low risk. The contract will be monitored within the

Council's contract management framework.

5.5.2 Whilst there is confidence that funds will be available from the Better Care Fund as stated in 5.2.2, a potential risk arises from the fact that final agreement of Better Care Fund allocations locally for 2017/18 are yet to be confirmed. This potential risk will be managed by ensuring that the contract allows the Council to give notice to terminate for financial reasons. This would allow the Council to negotiate terms for any reduction in services. Should this be necessary, the Council would take action to ensure that the impact on service users would be minimised.

## 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups.

5.6.2 It is anticipated that the contract extension will have a positive impact in terms of equalities, specifically in relation to older people. Service continuation will allow older people to continue to be supported in planning for wellbeing in later life. The Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2015 – 20 identifies that the borough's over-65 population is forecast to grow three times faster than the overall population between 2015 and 2030.

5.6.3 Extension of the contract will ensure that any potential negative impact on older people which might result from the ending of the service is avoided.

## 5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 Service user feedback is very positive. Age UK Barnet asked 59 clients who had used the Later Life Planning service in 2015/16 a number of questions. The percentage of those who said 'Yes' to each question is outlined below.

Question	Service users responding 'Yes'
Did you find the service helpful?	100%
Do you feel better informed?	100%
Were you satisfied with the service?	100%

The average scored assigned by service users to the Later Life Planning service on a scale of 1 to 10 was 9.6.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Agreement to an additional sum of £150,000 to deliver the neighbourhood model, Item 11, Cabinet, 17 July 2012  
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=6747&Ver=4>
- 6.2 Approval to commence a competitive procurement for a Later Life Planning service, Item 5, Cabinet Resources Committee, 18 October 2012  
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=7336&Ver=4>
- 6.3 Later Life Planning Service Contract Award, 28 November 2013  
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5069>
- 6.4 Approval of Annual Procurement Forward Plan 2016/2017, Item 9, Policy and Resources Committee 16 December 2015  
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=8349&Ver=4>
- 6.5 Prevention Services, Item 10, Adults and Safeguarding Committee, 10 November 2016  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=698&MId=8674&Ver=4>