



Scotland Excel

To: Executive Sub Committee

On: 27 April 2018

**Report
by
Director Scotland Excel**

Procurement of Care and Support Services

1 Introduction

This report provides an update on the collaborative procurement opportunities associated with care and support services.

2 Background

Care at home and supported living services are new areas of work in Scotland Excel's social care portfolio. Scotland Excel is funded for a two-year period up to March 2019 to explore opportunities for collaborative procurement across these services. The 31 Health and Social Care Partnership's (HSCP's) in Scotland spend over £750 million per annum on these services. Currently there is no national oversight on how these services are procured.

Care at home and supported living services share the aim of enabling people to live independently in their own home for as long as possible, with the care and support people need being delivered in the home.

The provider market for supported living services includes a number of large national third sector organisations with a significant share of HSCP spend. While some purchased care at home services are also delivered by national providers, services are often delivered by local private and voluntary sector organisations.

Until recently, care at home and supported living services were generally procured separately. However, differences between the services are lessening and the requirement for services to deliver a person-centred approach means that more commissioning and procurement strategies are bringing these services together.

3 Project Update

Since commencing this work in April 2017, Scotland Excel has focused its effort on engagement with key stakeholders.

Scotland Excel has held four regional provider sessions. Two working groups, one for care at home services and one for supported living services, have met regularly over the past six months. Both working groups include representation from HSCPs, providers and the Scottish Government. The working groups have both confirmed support for a national approach that incorporates both care at home and supported living services.

Provider engagement to date has been constructive and positive. Recently however some provider representatives have expressed concerns regarding elements of the proposed strategy. Scotland Excel will meet with provider representatives shortly to discuss these concerns.

In terms of commissioners, 21 HSCPs/ local authorities have indicated their participation in the proposed national framework for care and support, incorporating both care at home services and supported living services.

Given the Scottish Government funding ceases on 31 March 2019, Scotland Excel has also been considering how the ongoing framework management and monitoring can be supported. Scotland Excel has developed a range of funding options for further discussion with stakeholders over the coming months.

4 Procurement Strategy Update

Scotland Excel is finalising the procurement strategy for care and support and anticipate developing a flexible framework under the 'light touch regime'. It is intended that this framework is developed to:

- Include a process for continuity of care and transition of packages;
- Allow for new providers to apply to be on the framework at set periods;
- Allow for providers already on the framework to add or amend existing service provision and modelling at set periods;
- Provide continuity of care;
- Allow providers to identify which areas in Scotland they can deliver services and which client groups they have specialisms in supporting; and
- Provide an option for local authorities to either direct award or undertake a further competition via an hourly rate or individual budget.

Some anticipated benefits of this approach are:

- Increasing capacity to meet demand in specific locations;
- Broadening the pool of providers for people supported by services;
- Cross border working between local authority areas;
- Using individual budgets as opposed to spot purchasing;
- Enhancing partnership working;
- Promoting a focus on meeting outcomes for people; and

- Facilitating better planning – a HSCP may decide to undertake a further competition under the framework to allocate support for more than one person.

5 Next Steps

Over the next six months Scotland Excel will develop with partners the specification(s). The development of an agreed specification will be challenging given the variance in current local specifications. However, improving outcomes for people supported by services will be at the heart of all agreed service specifications. Scotland Excel will undertake engagement with people supported by services to ensure their views are central to the finally agreed specifications.

Scotland Excel will develop with partners, the framework structure and access procedures, framework terms and commercial and evaluation methodologies. A flexible framework will be developed that incorporates core requirements, but offers commissioners the ability to work with providers to tailor specific needs to local commissioning objectives and the personal needs of people.

Scotland Excel will continue to work closely with relevant partners on all aspects of the planned procurement.

6 Recommendation

Members are asked to note this update on activities associated with care and support services.