

# Cabinet

16 June 2022

## Coventry and Warwickshire All-Age Community Autism Support Services

### Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approves proceeding with an appropriate procurement process for the provision of Coventry and Warwickshire's All-Age Community Autism Support Services by the Council on behalf of Coventry City Council and Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
2. Approves and authorises the Strategic Director for People in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families to enter into all relevant contracts for the provision of Coventry and Warwickshire's All-Age Community Autism Support Services on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council currently commissions an All-Age Community Autism Support Service on behalf of Coventry City Council and Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 1.2 This service is for children, young people and adults awaiting a neurodevelopmental assessment and autism diagnosis, and people who already have a diagnosis, including their parents, family members and informal carers.
- 1.3 The current commissioned provision offers the following elements:
  - One to one outreach support
  - Group based outreach support (including peer support groups)
  - Awareness raising and education around neurodevelopmental conditions and autism for parents, family members and informal carers
- 1.4 The services were evaluated in 2020 and further engagement conducted in 2021. This has informed the service redesign which builds on existing provision and responds to identified gaps, both pre and post diagnosis.

- 1.5 Coventry and Warwickshire's Neurodevelopmental Transformation Programme has informed future service requirements, and all work has been co-produced with people with lived experience, clinicians and those working in services across health, social care and education. The model (Appendix 1) divides service delivery into 4 levels:
- Level 1- Self Help and Support
  - Level 2- Community Support Offer
  - Level 3- Specialist Support Offer
  - Level 4- Approaching Crisis
- 1.6 Some gaps have been identified within the Level 2 Community Support Offer and the new All-Age Community Autism Support Services will aim to address them by:
- Introducing a single front door for referrals for neurodiversity support and diagnosis to provide enhanced triage and ensure people are supported while awaiting a diagnostic assessment.
  - Providing low and medium level support pre and post diagnosis.
  - Developing an information and advice navigation function for people seeking an assessment, those diagnosed with autism and their parents.
- 1.7 A task and finish group has worked together to progress this and redesign services, including the completion of an Equality Impact Assessment. They have overseen all associated procurement activity and report regularly into Coventry and Warwickshire's Neurodevelopmental Transformation Programme.
- 1.8 As the current contracts are now approaching their expiration deadline, it is recommended that the Council proceeds with procuring the All-Age Community Autism Support Services and that this is done so on behalf of Coventry City Council and Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 1.9 A competitive tender process will be undertaken to secure the most efficient and effective delivery of these services. It is proposed that there will be one tender to combine the current contract and new elements as part of the redesigned model as a collaborative partnership.
- 1.10 It is recommended that the Strategic Director for People is authorised to award all relevant contracts for the provision of Coventry and Warwickshire's All-Age Community Autism Support Services on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 The current annual cost of the services in scope is £400,000 and has been funded collaboratively as follows:
- £120,000 funded by the Council
  - £200,000 funded by Coventry and Warwickshire CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group)
  - £80,000 funded by Coventry City Council
- 2.2 The proposed annual cost of the future services is £650,000, with contributions as follows:
- £210,000 funded by the Council
  - £300,000 funded by Coventry and Warwickshire CCG
  - £140,000 funded by Coventry City Council
- 2.3 Funding from the Council has been approved by the Directorate Leadership Team and the Warwickshire Joint Commissioning Board (JCB) from Warwickshire Better Care Funding.
- 2.4 Recurrent funding from Coventry and Warwickshire CCG has been approved via their governance and the Warwickshire JCB.
- 2.5 Work to secure a commitment from Coventry City Council towards recurrent funding is progressing and subject to their governance and approval processes.
- 2.6 The duration of the new contract(s) will be 2 years plus options to extend for further periods not exceeding 4 years in total.
- 2.7 The Council will contract for the full contract values above, on behalf of Coventry City Council and Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group, with an annual recharge being made for the external financial contributions.
- 2.8 Inflationary uplifts are not automatically guaranteed or agreed so providers will need to bid for services on this basis.
- 2.9 The current budget will be sufficient to cover the service requirements, and efficiencies will be sought and delivered through an effective procurement process.

## **3. Environmental Implications**

- 3.1 Providers will be expected to demonstrate how they will deliver services minimising impact on the climate balanced to meeting the needs of the population they serve.

## 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 This procurement is supported by the Coventry and Warwickshire All Age Autism Diagnostic and Support Pathway business case, approved by Coventry and Warwickshire CCG Governing Body 16th March 2022. The business case outlined options to provide additional capacity to alleviate the current backlog in autism diagnoses and forecast the recurrent funding and capacity required to meet service demands in the future for all age autism assessments and pre and post diagnostic support.
- 4.2 The procurement for the new services will be in line with the local Coventry and Warwickshire Autism Strategy 2021-2026<sup>1</sup> which was approved by the Council Cabinet in November 2022; and also support the new National Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People and Adults 2021-2026<sup>2</sup>.
- 4.3 This will also support the delivery of the Warwickshire Written Statement of Action<sup>3</sup> by enriching the support both pre and post diagnosis and recommissioning an all-age community support service for neurodivergent individuals.

## 5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Following Cabinet's decision, the below table sets out the critical milestones and key deadlines for the tendering and commissioning of the Community Autism Support Services.

Milestone	Date
Approval to tender (Cabinet)	27/6/2022
Tender	Late June 2022
Award contract(s)	September 2022
Implementation Period	September- December 2022
Service commencement	December 2022

## Appendices

- Appendix 1- Coventry and Warwickshire Neurodevelopmental Transformation Model of Care

## Background Papers

- Coventry and Warwickshire Strategy for Autistic People 2021-2026 (<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/allageautismstrategy>)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/allageautismstrategy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-strategy-for-autistic-children-young-people-and-adults-2021-to-2026>

<sup>3</sup> <https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-600065477-324>

2. National Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People and Adults 2021-2026 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-strategy-for-autistic-children-young-people-and-adults-2021-to-2026>)
3. Warwickshire Local Area Written Statement of Action (WSoA) for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) January 2022 – June 2023 (<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-600065477-324>)

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): n/a

Other members: Councillors Golby, Holland, Rolfe and Drew

# APPENDIX 1 Coventry and Warwickshire Neurodevelopmental Transformation Model of Care

## Neurodevelopmental Model of Care

Wider strategy enablers for the model

<p><b>Level 1 – Self Help and Support</b></p> <p>Information and advice is available via a portal that supports people, families and professionals to access the most relevant advice and support</p> <p>People can access advice on a 121 basis from someone with expertise (could be EBE as frontline, with escalation to specialist if required)</p> <p>Conferences bring together people and support networks</p>	<p><b>Level 2 – “Straightforward” Diagnosis and Community Support Offer</b></p> <p>(Clinical) professionals are trained to identify/diagnose neuro traits, assess needs and develop support plans (safety plan/ user guide) and signposting</p> <p>A menu of advice and skilled support is available, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding autism/ADHD</li> <li>• Sensory/communication</li> <li>• Emotional dysregulation/SEMH</li> <li>• Anxiety/depression/trauma</li> <li>• Sleep, Eating, Gender</li> <li>• School / EP support</li> <li>• Parent training / family support</li> </ul> <p>Peer support networks, apps and 121 support, mentoring are available to increase community integration (including employment and housing) and reduce isolation</p> <p>“navigator” role assigned as key contact point/advocacy ongoing <b>including during transition</b> (could be EBE role)</p>	<p><b>Level 3 – “Complex” Diagnosis and Specialist Support Offer</b></p> <p>Specialist neuro expertise, as part of the MDT, undertakes diagnosis and holistic assessment leading to a neuro profile and specialist therapeutic input/medication review</p> <p>Joint working with MH services including managing risky behaviour self harm, suicide and ongoing care coordination for people who are care act eligible</p> <p>Specialist support groups increase community integration, reduce isolation</p> <p>Training and support provided to families, community living/education providers to implement neuro profile</p> <p>Neuro liaison roles supporting acute, primary care, MH, social care, education. Shared care medication with primary care.</p> <p>Care and Support / Education providers with specialist Neuro expertise are commissioned</p>	<p><b>Level 4 – Approaching Crisis (Autism Only at the moment)</b></p> <p>Shared register of people “at risk”</p> <p>Named lead professional and clinical commissioner assigned</p> <p>MDT/CETR is held, EHCP review?</p> <p>24/7 intensive support and emergency community response service (accommodation?)</p> <p>MH crisis team respond (with 24/7 access to neuro expertise /clinical commissioner / case manager?)</p> <p>Urgent assessment / diagnosis for people in “MH” crisis</p> <p>In-reach Support and provider training/ alternative education continues in hospital</p> <p>Support is available for autistic people with forensic needs</p>
<p>Workforce training supports reasonably adjusted universal services (primary and secondary health services, social care and support, mainstream, specialist schools)</p>			
<p>Sensory and Neuro friendly Places and schools (uniform/food/behaviour, buildings)</p>			
<p>Services do not require a neuro diagnosis, nor exclude people on the basis of their diagnosis</p>			
			<p>Keyworkers support: navigation and escalation, including during transition, understanding and implementing autism profile</p>