

## LDOF Provider briefing – 10 January 2024 - Q&A summary

<p>Will out of borough Supported Living placements be considered for Somerset clients?</p>	<p>Somerset Council aims to work with Providers who operate with a base within the county (or within a small radius). Any exceptions to this will be considered via a conversation with the Provider.</p> <p>If a person specifically wishes to move out of Somerset, this will be facilitated through an out of county spot contract arrangement, outside of this DPS.</p>
<p>Is it just an SQ or an SQ and ITT all in one stage?</p>	<p>The initial stage to become a provider on the DPS will be a Selection Questionnaire. Providers who are accepted on to the DPS will then be able to bid for any packages of work that are put out through the DPS.</p>
<p>We are already on Proactis - do we still need to apply for DPS?</p>	<p>Yes, providers already on Proactis will need to apply for this particular opportunity; providers not already on Proactis will need to register themselves on the system and then apply for this particular opportunity</p>
<p>Once approved, how is this expected to work in practice? Will individual commissions be advertised for orgs to tender for? E.g. person X is looking for 15 hours outreach per week, 5 hrs three times per week.</p>	<p>Once registered as an approved provider on the DPS, opportunities will be advertised in the usual way, via Somerset Council's Sourcing Care Team.</p> <p>Opportunities are based on each individual's needs and requested support package. Providers are expected to express their interest in being able and skilled to deliver the requested care/support.</p> <p>The sourcing mechanism may in future return to being processed through Proactis, but all providers will be consulted with and alerted if a change is to take place.</p>

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Will it be all individual commissions, or will there also be groups or new schemes advertised through the DPS?	This DPS is for individual care and support packages only. New contract tenders will be advertised through Pro Contract and subject to the usual tender process.
For new providers, can we register now or date in February?	New provider can set up an account on Proactis now. However, providers will only be able to express an interest in this particular opportunity once it has gone live (anticipated to be early Feb)
We will need to apply for the DPS if we have out of county placements in supported living funded by Somerset?	Providers located in Somerset or within a 10 mile radius are able to apply to be registered on the DPS. Existing out of county contracts will continue and remain under out of county SPOT arrangements.
Are there price caps?	Yes, Somerset has and advertises upper hourly rates and fees and may be subject to inflationary uplift considerations. However, price and quality are part of each expression of interest.  Also, prices are maximum figures and it is expected that for example, supported living, located in one single location is priced at a lower hourly rate than domiciliary care provisions where travelling between multiple locations is required.
How will this framework work for people wishing to take an ISF?	ISFs will not be covered by this DPS. Self-directed support is managed outside of this DPS.
Will this also be the process for people using Direct Payments and Individual Service Funds?	Direct Payment's and ISFs will not be covered by this DPS. Self-directed support is managed outside of this DPS.

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Will tenders be scored based on MEAT?	The Selection Questionnaire and the further opportunities will be scored as set out on the system/ accompanying documentation once live
What's the length of the contract and will there be other opportunities to join DPS later in the year?	The initial term of the DPS is 5 years with the option to extend for a further 5 years. The DPS remains open for the full term and providers can apply at any point
What does Somerset Council hope to achieve from introducing this process?	<p>There is an existing framework in place currently, so this is not a new introduction, but a re-commission of an existing model.</p> <p>The current framework reaches the end of its term at the end of March 2024 so the Council is required to recommission it. This does however provide the opportunity to remove the Learning Disability specific diagnosis as well as procedural streamlining, review of service types and clarification of ethos and expectations.</p>
When commissioning groups or schemes outside of this DPS, could the SQ for the DPS not be used in the tender to "passport" quality providers through stage 1 to the ITT stage?	No, this will not be possible at this point.