



Market Engagement – Care & Support Providers

Supported Living Services for People with Learning Disabilities & Autism

November 2022

Introduction

Bracknell Forest Council is carrying out a review of supported living provision for adults with learning disabilities and autism.

Our Vision:

We aim to have **local** supported living services that support adults with a learning disability and autism to have **independence and choice**.

We will achieve this through **effective commissioning** and **partnership** working that results in **outcomes focused support**, that is high quality, and delivered in **accommodation that is well suited** to the needs of residents.

At the heart of achieving this will be close **partnership working**, **co-production** and **trusted relationships**, outcome focused and **strengths-based practice**, and **effective systems** to remove friction from our operational processes.

The project will consider:

- ▶ Our current supported living provision
- ▶ The needs of people who currently access this service now and those who may access the service in the future
- ▶ How we intend to design, commission and procure this provision over the coming years

Purpose of Engagement

- ▶ **This market engagement activity is aimed at care and support providers** of supported living services for adults with learning disabilities and autism. The wider project will consider our housing/ accommodation needs under separate arrangements.
- ▶ We want to engage with our **existing supported living providers** as well as **those that do not currently provide services** in the borough.
- ▶ We want to **work in partnership with the market** to offer choice and quality provision for the people we support. We are keen to understand the **issues, challenges and opportunities** around delivering supported living services from the provider perspective.
- ▶ We will **engage with providers** throughout the process, both through the formal procurement process and through **soft market testing activities** and events. We will also use the knowledge and insights we gain from our ongoing engagement with our existing providers (through contract monitoring, provider meetings and forums).
- ▶ The information we gather will help us **shape the way the supported living service is provided in future.**

This is a market engagement exercise only and any provider who participates shall be given no favourable treatment during any subsequent procurement exercise (if such a procurement materialises) and that this is entirely separate to any procurement process. As such, contributions have no bearing upon any future bids.

Please also note that by submitting a response and attending any meeting it will be deemed that providers will have accepted that any IP rights relating to content discussed during the meeting will rest with the Council and that their existing IP rights will not be affected.

Timetable

Activity	Est. Timescale
Understanding our needs and Data Analysis	Late 2022/ Early 2023
Benchmarking and Market Engagement	Late 2022/ Early 2023
Development of Agreed Model and Internal Governance Process	Early 2023
Procurement Process	Mid 2023
Mobilisation & Implementation	Late 2023

This is an indicative timetable only and subject to change as the project progresses.

Co-Production

The Council is committed to ensuring the voices of people and their families and carers are at the heart of service planning, development and provision in Bracknell Forest.

We will consult, engage and co-produce with people throughout the commissioning, design and procurement process.

Context

Current Supported Living Provision in Bracknell Forest



- There are around **420 people known to the community learning disability team**. Approximately **243 people live in supported living settings**.
- Bracknell Forest has a strong track record for enabling people to live in supported living settings, with **only 32 people placed in registered residential care or nursing homes**.
- Accommodation is provided by **14 Housing Associations/ Landlords**. Around a third of people are receiving 24/7 support across 34 properties.
- Some of these properties have been **specially adapted** and property type ranges from one-bedroom flats to shared housing for up to 5 people.
- There are **nomination agreements** in place between Bracknell Forest Council's learning disability team and the housing associations, giving the council control over who moves into the properties.
- **Compatibility is an important consideration** for the learning disability team when supporting people to move into a supported living setting.

Current Contracting Arrangements



- There are 10-15 active **providers delivering significant packages of supported living**.
- All services are currently commissioned via **spot purchasing arrangements**, brokered by the Community Learning Disability Team.
- All support packages are **individually negotiated**, tailored to the individual needs of the people.

Context

Future Demand



- According to **population projections** (PANSI), the number of people within the working age adult's cohort is **not expected to change significantly over the next 5 years**, with only a small increase being seen.
- Research was carried out by the **Housing LIN in 2018** which looked at the longer term needs of **people with learning disabilities**. This included:
 - **Projection of need for people with learning disabilities** and autism requiring housing/accommodation with care/support
 - Accommodation and housing options that will **deliver improvements in health, wellbeing and quality of life** for the people who live in housing/accommodation with care.
 - Accommodation and housing options that provide **more cost-effective housing/accommodation** with care options compared with the use of alternatives such as registered care and inappropriate use of hospital settings.
- **The Housing LIN report projected an estimated** net additional need for BFC up to 2035 of:
 - **64** places for people living in **24/7 supported housing**
 - **16** places for people living in a **tenancy with support**
- These estimates are roughly in line with our neighbouring authorities

Financial Context



- Bracknell Forest Council, as with all local authorities, is **facing significant financial challenges**.
- As a public body, the Council has a **duty to ensure** that the service it delivers, and provides through contracts and agreements, deliver the best **possible outcomes and value for money**.

Market Engagement Questions

General

1. Do you currently provide services in or around Bracknell Forest borough? Where?
2. Are there any factors that would discourage you from working with Bracknell Forest Council?
3. What would encourage you to work with Bracknell Forest Council?

Commissioning best practice and emerging needs

1. In your experience what works well in the commissioning of Supported Living Services for people with learning disabilities and autism?
2. What new or emerging needs are you seeing in your delivery of services in Bracknell Forest / elsewhere?

Procurement model

1. What is your experience of contracting with local authorities i.e., block contracts/ DPS/ Flexible Frameworks?
2. What works well? What is challenging?
3. Do you think it is beneficial to define specific lots for areas of specialism/ location/ geographical area? If so, please describe what works well? If not, what are the barriers/ challenges?

Service model

1. Pricing models - What pricing models work best? How do these impact on your services?
2. What models of supported living do you find to be most successful in terms of number of people, core/ shared support, needs supported, approach to voids?
3. Please describe your relationship with Housing Providers (do you provide housing or work in partnership with Registered Providers? What works well, what are the challenges?)
4. How do you measure outcomes for people with support needs?
5. What experience do you have of using Assistive Technology? What works well? What doesn't?

How to Participate and Further Information

- ▶ Please answer the **questions** in the attached word document and return via the **South East Business Portal**.
- ▶ The deadline for responses is **Tuesday 6th December 2022**.
- ▶ If you have any questions or would like any **further information** at all, please contact us through the South East Business Portal: [South East Business Portal \(due-north.com\)](https://due-north.com)
- ▶ **Thank you** in advance for taking the time to take part in this soft market testing exercise. Your feedback will help us **shape the future provision of supported living services** for adults with learning disabilities in Bracknell Forest.
- ▶ The Council may carry out **further market engagement activities** as this project progresses. Any such activities will be advertised through the South East Business Portal