



Decision Note

Provision of Nursing Support – South Staffordshire Mental Health Community Triage Service -SCP/D/202526/002

Proposed Contract Renewal

REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

	Policing:	Crime:	Fire & Rescue:
This decision relates to:		X	

APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

Rationale for approval

This decision relates to the following priorities set out in the Police & Crime Plan:

- Ensure the continued support of NHS partners to Staffordshire Police in addressing mental health and other vulnerabilities in a community safety setting to ensure that people get early access to the support they need from the right agencies.
- Work with the NHS and other agencies to ensure victims have access to services to meet a broad range of related needs (such as mental and emotional health support).

STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

Signature

Date **27/02/2025**

Date decision required by: 27th February 2025

If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons:

Confirmation of the contract renewal is needed as soon as possible to enable the provider to confirm 2025-26 staffing arrangements



For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner’s Office only:-

Decision Number: SCP/D/202526/002

Date Received: 27th February 2025

	Yes	No
Has the required decision been considered under the guidance of the Staffordshire Commissioner’s Decision-Making Policy?	X	
Has the required decision been deemed to be a Key Decision as defined within the Staffordshire Commissioner’s Decision-Making Policy?	X	
Who is empowered to make the required decision? Staffordshire Commissioner		

Title	Proposed Contract Renewal Provision of Nursing Support – South Staffordshire Mental Health Community Triage Service
Summary: The background to the proposed renewal of the above contract has been set out in previous reports to the Commissioner. The SCO currently has a contract in place with MPFT for the provision of mental health nursing inputs to the South Staffordshire Mental Health Community Triage Service. The contract was originally agreed with MPFT on 1 April 2016 for an initial 12 months term at a cost of [REDACTED] Since this time the agreement has been renewed annually with both parties agreeing to continue to contribute to the delivery of the service on a cooperative / goodwill basis to ensure the continued availability of nursing support to the Community Triage team. During this time contractual arrangements have been agreed largely on the terms of the initial agreement, with small annual uplifts in funding agreed to reflect the costs of inflation – bringing the cost of the contract in 2024-25 to [REDACTED]	



In discussions regarding the possible renewal of the agreement in 2025-26 the provider has indicated that if a new contract is to be agreed for a further 12 months period, a further uplift in funding of 2% will be required bringing the annual contract cost to [REDACTED].

A business case seeking approval for the renewal of the contract on this basis for a further period of up to 12 months was submitted to SLT in January 2025.

Following consideration of options presented in the business case (see below) approval has been given for the renewal of the contract for a further period of 6 months.

This report seeks approval for arrangements for the contract renewal to be taken forward with MPFT on this basis.

The cost of renewing the contract for a further period of 6 months from 1st April 2025, if approved, will be [REDACTED]

Recommendation:

That the proposed renewal of the SCOs contract with MPFT for the provision of Mental Health Nursing inputs to the South Staffordshire Mental Health Community Triage Service be approved for a further 6 months period from 1 April 2025 on the terms outlined in this report.

Chief Executive

I hereby approve the recommendation for consideration.

Signature

Date 27/02/2025

REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

Background

As indicated above the SCO's contract with MPFT for the provision of mental health nursing support to the Community Triage service was originally agreed on 1 April 2016 and has since been renewed on a rolling 12 months basis.

The agreement makes provision for the supply of mental health nurses - on a peripatetic basis - to work as part of the joint Police / health South Staffordshire Mental Health Community Triage team responsible for responding to incidents / calls involving individuals with mental health needs and other vulnerabilities.

Since being introduced in 2016 the nursing posts have played a significant role in supporting delivery of the Community Triage service in South Staffordshire helping police officers to respond effectively to incidents involving individuals with complex mental health needs - delivering timely assessments and, where appropriate, diverting individuals away from unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system and into appropriate the treatment and support services in the community.



The service provided makes an important contribution to current Policing operations whilst at the same time helping to reduce police demand by averting inappropriate use of S136 detentions requiring unnecessary police attendance at hospital to escort individuals for further assessment / possible admission.

The continued availability of the service is considered to be important to both the effectiveness of current Policing operations and to the achievement of local health and wellbeing and community safety outcomes.

Future Commissioning Arrangements

Whilst up to this point the SCO has been supportive of the funding of the service it is considered that given the health related focus of the service it is not appropriate for the SCO to continue to play a role in the funding of the service in the long-term and that going forward responsibility for funding and commissioning the service should be derived from NHS sources.

It is proposed therefore that over coming months discussions concerning future funding arrangements for the service will be taken forward with health partners to explore the possibility of nursing posts in South Staffordshire in future being funded wholly from NHS sources with a view to removing the need for future calls on the SCO budget.

It is intended therefore that this will be the last occasion on which renewal of the contract will be sought.

1. What other options have been considered?

As part of the original business case submitted in respect of future commissioning options for the service the following options were considered:

- **Option A:** Do nothing - allow the contract to end on 31st March 2025
- **Option B:** Agree to the renewal of the agreement on the revised terms indicated to ensure continuation of the service for a further period of 6 months to allow time for negotiations with the NHSE and ICB regarding future commissioning arrangements for the service to be concluded;
- **Option C:** Agree to the renewal of the agreement on the revised terms indicated to ensure continuation of the service for a further period of 12 months to allow additional time for negotiations with the NHSE and ICB regarding future commissioning arrangements for the service to be concluded

Following consideration of the above the option to agree to the renewal of the agreement on the revised terms indicated for a further period of 6 months (Option B) was supported.

2. Consultation and Engagement undertaken

In considering future commissioning options for the service discussions were held with Staffordshire Police, partners represented on the Reducing Reoffending Board and the Prevention/Early Intervention Delivery Group to establish views on the value of the service.

Police, criminal justice and other partners consulted all value the availability of the service and the contribution that it makes to effective early intervention / preventative work with individuals with complex needs.



Discussions have also been held with health and criminal justice partners regarding future commissioning arrangements for the service

Report Implications

3. Monitoring Officer comments:

A robust business case has been considered setting out the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed contract renewal which have been taken into account in reaching a view as to whether or not the option to renew the contract should be taken up.

Signature 

Date **27/02/2025**

4. Section 151 Officer comments:

Signature 

Date **27/02/2025**

	Yes	No
Has legal advice (outside of that provided by the Monitoring Officer) been sought on the content of this report?	X	

5. Legal Comments:

The Commercial Team and Legal services have been engaged in advising on commissioning options for the service.

6. Risks - please give the details of any operational or strategic risks that are affected by this decision (add risk reference number and title below)

There is a low risk to the SCO should the proposed renewal of the contract be supported.

There is provision within the contractual arrangement for the contract to be renewed for the period proposed.

A funding allocation has provisionally been included in the SCO commissioning budget to cover the cost of the renewal of the contract on the terms outlined should the renewal be approved.

7. Equality Comments – please attach the completed EIA

N/A

8. Background/supporting papers



Please answer the following questions	Yes	No
9. Public access to information?		X
10. Does this decision involve the processing of personal data? (If yes please attach a completed Data Impact Assessment)		X
11. Is the publication of this form to be deferred? (If yes approx. how long?)		X
12. Does this form contain commercial or operationally sensitive information which is to be redacted? (If yes, please provide details with the submission of this note) contract value and payments	X	

13. ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Author	Pete Scott
Signed	
Date	25.02.25