

Commissioning Position Statement

Care at Home – May 2025

Current Position

Care at Home (CAH) services in Oldham continue to operate smoothly, ensuring the effective delivery of appropriate domestic care to residents. Oldham Council has successfully managed the demand for these services without needing to establish a waiting list. Demand levels have remained steady, and external provider assistance has not been required to meet the needs. Under the current contractual arrangements, the council's commissioning approach prioritises the use of preferred providers, with backup providers engaged only in exceptional circumstances. However, over time, business acquisitions have occurred that may not align with the original commissioning intentions or support the broader market management strategy.

Current Gaps in the Oldham Market

The current care at home services were commissioned through a tendering process conducted in 2019, in line with the contract procedure rules outlined in Oldham Council's constitution. This arrangement was established for a five-year term, with an option to extend by a further two years. Through this process, two preferred providers were appointed for each of the five geographical clusters within Oldham. Throughout the contract terms the market has remained fairly stable and has been able to meet local needs, though there have been changes of ownership and amalgamation of national providers which have impacted upon this.

The commissioning intention was to deliver care at home services primarily through these preferred providers, using backup or framework providers only when absolutely necessary. Recently, the Council reopened its care at home framework and carried out a procurement exercise to add more providers following this a mini-competition among framework providers was completed to fill two vacant preferred provider positions, subject to the required approvals (made available due to the amalgamation of providers as mentioned above). This mini competition has concluded and is being finalised via contracts before being made public.

Oldham Council remains committed to commissioning care at home services via its preferred providers, who are selected through rigorous procurement processes. Robust contract and quality monitoring frameworks are in place to ensure that residents receive safe, person-centred, and high-quality care.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Oldham Council Commissioning Approach <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/mps-commissioning-approach> and Capacity and Demand Profile <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/mps-capacity-and-demand-summary>. Documents produced May 2025, reviewed annually or as required.

Version 1: May 2025



Commissioning Approach

The council is legally obligated to comply with its contract procedure rules and all relevant procurement legislation in delivering care at home services. We have now entered the final year of the current contract, which ends on the 31st March 2026, and a new specification is being developed for tender. Market engagement is likely to commence in early Autumn 2025 and all opportunities to engage will be advertised on the e-procurement portal, *The CHEST* (<https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>).

For more information or to discuss opportunities in Oldham, please contact us at asccommissioning@oldham.gov.uk.

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