

The Commissioning and Award of Adult Social Care Services and Associated Contracts

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This report relates to a Key Decision

Purpose of this report

1. To secure agreement to the commissioning and procurement of preventative, non statutory Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support services that support vulnerable adults, older people and those with disabilities and long term health conditions and the decision to award contracts following this.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is asked to:

1. **agree the commissioning and procurement of the Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support services in line with the timetable set out, and to delegate the decision to award the contracts to the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing in consultation with the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing and the Executive Member for Corporate Resources.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

2. A report on the Commissioning activity for the Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support Services is on the forward plan for Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration 14 December 2015.

Background

Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support Services

1. The Council through the Social Care and Housing Directorate is responsible for the commissioning and management of a range of contracts with the Voluntary and Community and Housing Support sectors that provide a range of preventative services whose contract periods are coming to an end and so need to be commissioned during 2016.
2. The current services consist of twelve Voluntary and Community Sector contracts where the total annual contract value is £1.8m (with partner contributions of £0.746m from Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group; £0.389m from Bedfordshire Borough Council and £0.02m from Luton Borough Council for a number of contracts), and six Housing related Support Services for Vulnerable Adults where the annual value is £0.742m.
3. All services involved are preventative and non statutory with the exception of the statutory advocacy services in the Advocacy contract. None of the services are a substitute for Social Care or Health services as they fall below the eligibility threshold. However, they provide support to vulnerable adults and their carers that help them to continue to live as independently as possible in their own homes and support individual wellbeing, enshrined within the Care Act 2014. The services commissioned also meet the new duty under the Care Act to ensure residents have universal access to information and signposting.
4. The overall aim, in line with the Council's Prevention Strategy 'Never too Early, Never too Late' is to commission targeted preventative services that support and enable vulnerable adults to be independent, prevent or delay the deterioration of wellbeing due to ageing illness or disability and delay the need for more costly and intensive services; for housing support services to prevent vulnerable adults at risk of homelessness becoming homeless and enabling individuals to maintain a tenancy and live independently.
5. The opportunity is being taken in commissioning new services to develop outcome based specifications, co produced with stakeholders where possible, drawing on outcome based frameworks, such as, the Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit and the Think Local Act Personal framework and latest guidance to provide services that are responsive to customer need and aspirations, as well as deliver the high level outcomes in the Council's developing 5 year plan of *Protecting the Vulnerable; Improving Wellbeing and Creating Stronger Communities*. **Appendix A** shows the model developed for future for service delivery.
6. A number of the contracts historically have been jointly commissioned with key partners and include services for the following groups: Carers, people living with dementia, people requiring advocacy support and people with support needs arising from autism.

These, with the exception of Autism support have been commissioned with the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Bedford Borough Council. Central Bedfordshire Council Children's Services also makes a financial contribution to the Carer's in Bedfordshire contract for services for children; Luton Borough Council is a partner with the Autism Bedfordshire contract.

7. Commissioning colleagues, working with partners will continue to jointly commission the services mentioned above, as the economies of scale and rationale for jointly commissioning continues to be relevant. It is intended to continue to ensure that the service specification and performance reflects the financial contribution and identified priorities of each partner as well as demand.
8. The original timeline for the Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support services commissioning activity for new contracts to be in place from 1 April 2016 has presented a challenge; given the number of contracts, scale and scope of services involved and our ambition to stimulate provider collaboration and outcome focused delivery. This has required considerable research, the forecasting of future demand, engagement with key stakeholders, review of evidence and the options arising from this in the light of current and future need. As a result, a number of extensions to contracts have been sought with associated Waivers from the Council's Procurement Rules to enable the necessary work to be undertaken effectively and achieve the desired outcomes.
9. The approach to this commissioning activity for Voluntary and Community Sector services will be based on a number of lots that will encourage greater collaboration between future providers, these are:
 - Lot 1 - Carers Services
 - Lot 2 - Dementia Services
 - Lot 3 - Advocacy Services
 - Lot 4 - Older people and Adults with a disability or health condition
 - Lot 5 - Community Resilience

Housing Support Services for Vulnerable Adults will be commissioned on a similar basis with lots based around specific client groups again with a focus on outcomes and a requirement for greater collaboration.

10. The procurement activity milestones for the majority of services are set out below:

• Contract documentation completed	31/01/16
• OJEU notice and open tender issue	29/02/16
• Tender submission	05/05/16
• End of evaluation/intention to award	15/07/16
• Formal award and mobilisation	01/08/16
• Contract start	01/10/16

Arrangements for Advocacy services and Village Care/Good Neighbour schemes will follow a timeline that completes for 1 April 2017.

Reason/s for decision

11. The decision on the first recommendation is necessary as the total contract value concerned for both the Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support Services exceed £500,000 and authorisation is required to complete the procurement exercise and the decision to award individual contracts as a result.

Council Priorities

12. The commissioning of Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support Services contracts supports the Council priority of promoting health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable by providing support to vulnerable adults and their carers to help them to continue to live as independently as possible in their own homes and maintain their individual wellbeing.

Corporate Implications

Procurement

13. The procurement exercise for the Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support Services is in accordance with the Council's Procurement Rules. Procurement and Legal advice has been provided in respect of the extensions to contracts and associated Waivers and the rationale for these deemed appropriate for the services concerned, given the circumstances, opportunities and ambition set out above.

Legal Implications

14. Legal advice is that extensions to contracts, supported by necessary Waivers are acceptable as set out in the report and that although there is a potential risk of challenge, this is mitigated by the fact that there is a clear intention to go to tender and procure new contracts during 2016.

Equalities Implications

15. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The procurement processes for the Care contract has ensured that due regard has been given to the requirements of equality legislation.
16. Equalities issues and implications will be fully considered and incorporated into specifications as part of the commissioning activity for Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support services acknowledging that the focus of these services is to support vulnerable people. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as necessary.

Next Steps

17. To continue the commissioning activity to award new contracts for Voluntary and Community Sector and Housing Support Services to completion and award of new contracts.

Appendix

Appendix A – Future Model