
Shared Lives Scheme Management Service for Adults with Learning Disabilities

Report of: Cllr Carole Hegley, Executive Member for Social Care and Housing, carole.hegley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Advising Officers: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing, Julie.ogley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk and Jane Moakes, Head of Strategic Commissioning, jane.moakes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk,
Tel: 0300 300 5441

This report is a Key Issue

Purpose of this report

1. To approve the award of a new Shared Lives Scheme Management Service contract for Adults with Learning Disabilities for a period of 3 years plus up to 2 years extension.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is asked to:

- 1. **approve the award of a new Shared Lives Scheme Management Service for Adults with Learning Disabilities for a period of 3 years, plus up to 2 years extension.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

2. A briefing paper for the new Shared Lives Scheme Management Service has been provided to the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Issues

3. The Council had been in a joint arrangement with Bedford Borough Council from 2009 for the provision of Shared Lives services that was ended in August 2014. Arrangements were made with MacIntyre Care to continue to support customers and their Shared Lives Carers until a new scheme had been commissioned and was in place. This arrangement has continued with 7 Shared Lives carers supporting 9 adults with learning disabilities.

4. Briefly, Shared Lives is recognised nationally as a model of care and support, an alternative to Residential Care and Supported Living, that works well for some individuals, supporting them to be more independent, living with a family in the local community with greater opportunities and access to training, employment and social activities as well as positive outcomes in their personal health and wellbeing. The model has developed over recent years as a good practice model of care and support for adults with learning disabilities, and is now extending as a model of care and support for a wider range of vulnerable adults. It differs from other forms of care and support, in that as well as supporting individuals achieve their outcomes; Shared Lives Carers and their families also achieve positive outcomes and benefits. Appendix A provides some helpful insight; for instance, from a carer *‘..... I learnt that many people that needed a carer also needed a home, a family life, stability and a familiar face that is not always available in residential settings..... Shared Lives is a vocation, not just a job, but it is well worth doing..... I love to help and support others, more especially passing on my skills and watching someone grow in confidence, feel empowered and know that they can do things for themselves’*.
5. Shared Lives is described as:

‘.....always involves the Shared Lives carer using and sharing their home and their family (or community) life with the customer using or living in a Shared Lives arrangement. Shared Lives can be offered to any adult with care and support needs and, in some cases, to young people from the age of 16’ (Source: Shared Lives Plus guidance document: *Defining Shared Lives*, 2015).
6. Shared Lives is a regulated service, schemes are registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and as such are inspected regularly. One of the roles of a Shared Lives Scheme provider is to ensure the scheme is registered and compliant with CQC Regulations.
7. Work commenced in September 2016 to commission a new Shared Lives scheme for Central Bedfordshire through a competitive tendering process, the necessary research and work having been undertaken. The invitation to tender for a new Shared Lives Scheme Management Service was issued to the market on 31 January 2017.
8. The development of a Shared Lives Scheme for adults with learning disabilities is considered the most appropriate way forward to replace the current ‘holding’ Shared Lives service that has been in place since 2014. It is an effective model of care and support that achieves positive outcomes for customers, provides good value for money and is more cost effective than for example, residential care. The Shared Lives model, whilst it does not suit all individuals, it is an option that can be tried prior to taking up and as a result of its success is now being developed for a wider range of vulnerable adults.

9. The new offer and specification has been developed with stakeholders. Discussions took place with existing customers and their carers to develop co produced outcomes in addition to engaging with the provider market to seek their views and input. A summary of the specification and outcomes is attached at Appendix B.
10. The new Shared Lives Scheme Management Service is specifically for adults with learning disabilities and it will manage, develop and support the existing scheme to:
 - Increase the number of adults supported.
 - Cover a range of low, medium, moderate to high level care and support needs.
 - Include young adults aged 16-17 years.
 - Substantially increase the number of Shared Lives carers so more customers for whom these services are suitable and a preferred choice, have access to a Shared Lives service.
11. The range of services the new scheme will cover includes: long term placements until a customer is ready to move on to more independent living (permanent matches); short term placement (residency) such as overnight or a few weeks depending on need; emergency placement (residency) when arrangements need to be made unexpectedly e.g. if a carer becomes ill or is in Hospital for a period of time, and day support where individuals can be supported by a Shared Lives carer in their home, in the local community or in the customer's home.
12. In considering the potential number of customers for whom Shared Lives may be the suitable option for care and support, a target of an additional 12 Shared Lives carers per year has been set for the first two years of the contract. The focus initially will be on securing carers willing to provide long term (permanent) matches and /or emergency placements (residencies).
13. The specification was co produced with stakeholders, including customers, their carers and providers. Information about the tender including the Council's commissioning intention, timetable and specification was publicised through Shared Lives Plus as well as being published on the Council's Intend system. This resulted in 14 providers from the market showing an interest and reviewing the documentation, with a range of clarifications being raised through the tendering process submission period.

14. The procurement time line for the new service and contract to start in July/August 2017 is set out below :
- Draft specification - 31 Dec 2016
 - Engagement with Stakeholders - Learning Disability Provider Forum (23.11.16, 15.2.17), Shared Lives Customers and Carers meeting (13.12.16, 9.1.17)
 - Tender published - 31 Jan 2017
 - Tender return - 18 Apr 2017
 - Evaluation (initial bids) - Apr/May 2017
 - Presentations by successful bidders - May 2017
 - Final Evaluation - End May 2017
 - Recommendation to Executive - Jun 2017
 - Award of contract and standstill period - Jun 2017
 - Mobilisation period – Jul/Aug 2017
 - New contract start – Aug/Sep 2017
15. The evaluation was undertaken in two stages; 1) evaluation of the detailed written submission, including analysis and evaluation of service cost, stage 2) evaluation of a formal presentation to the panel; the overall criteria being Quality 60% and Cost 40%. Service quality is paramount, securing a provider that enables customers to access a high quality Shared Lives service is fundamental, in which the provider ensures that the customers health and wellbeing comes first; that Shared Lives carers are assessed and registered with the CQC and Shared Lives Plus, where suitable 'matching' arrangements are in place, with the customer and carer being actively supported to enable individuals to receive support and care in a home environment ,as part of an ordinary family life that helps people live well, be active and live their own independent and fulfilling lives.
16. The number of formal tenders received on 18 April was three. The bids were formally evaluated and moderated, (stage 1) by the panel 15 May, resulting in one provider being invited to the presentation stage. Only bids that met the required evaluation scores at the written submission stage were invited to the presentation stage. The panel included internal colleagues from Adult Social Care, Procurement and Finance and Shared Lives carers.
17. It was clear from the total score from stage 1 and specifically the scores for the contract costs, that one provider (Provider 'A') only could go through to the next stage. The costs set out by the other 2 providers, Provider 'B' and 'C' were significantly greater than Provider 'A'. Providers 'B' and 'C' were advised that they would not go through to stage 2 and of their ranking and score; Provider 'B' scored 22.92% and Provider 'C' 17.29% (maximum 40%), with reasons for the scores, including the relative advantages and characteristics of the leading bid explained.

18. The presentation stage took place on 30 May 2017 with Provider 'A' and following evaluation by the panel (20% of the total Quality 60% criteria), the presentation met the criteria with a score of 15.44%. On the basis of the total score achieved, 90.29% from 100%, it is recommended that Provider 'A' is awarded the contract for the Shared Lives Scheme Management Service.
19. In summary, the award of the contract will lead to greater choice for adults with learning disabilities with an increased number of customers living in more homely environments.

Reason/s for decision

20. The procurement of a new Shared Lives Scheme Management Service, specifically for adults with learning disabilities is necessary so as to expand and develop the current scheme (that is only able to support existing customers on the scheme) and to provide an alternative option for a greater number of adults with learning disabilities, including young people aged 16 to 17. Executive approval is required to award a new service due to the contract value over the 5 year term (3 years plus 2).
21. Following the competitive tendering process undertaken it is recommended that Provider 'A' is awarded the contract.

Council Priorities

22. The provision of a Shared Lives offer in addition to other offers for adults with learning disabilities contributes to the Council priority of protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing, as it supports individuals to optimise their independence, with greater emphasis on promoting independence, dignity and choice, and connecting people with their local community to enhance opportunities to develop networks/establish friendships.

Corporate Implications

23. None identified.

Legal Implications

24. The Procurement of the Shared Lives Scheme has been undertaken in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules.

Financial and Risk Implications

25. The budget for the Shared Lives Service is provided for within the Adult Social Care Learning Disability base budget. The Shared Lives model is a more cost effective form of care than that of more traditional models such as residential care.

Though difficult to quantify at this stage, whilst there is an initial budget pressure to procure a new contract, savings will accrue over the short to medium term and this will be monitored as part of the efficiency programme in line with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

26. A benefit of Shared Lives schemes is that they can contribute to delivering efficiencies in social care budgets (long term arrangement savings of £26,000 per person per year for adults with a learning disability according to an independent report.) *Social Finance 'Investing in Shared Lives' July 2013.*

Equalities Implications

27. The provision of a Shared Lives offer provides an additional option and greater choice for adults with learning disabilities to other forms of care and support currently available (for example, Supported Living, Residential Care). Individuals are supported to live in the local community with natural support networks, where they can benefit from developing relationships/accessing the community, the same as an average person, and aspire to have their own home and access to paid employment.
28. Each customer of the Shared Lives service will have an individual care and support plan agreed with them and adult social care staff. This ensures that their individual needs and preferences in how those care and support needs are met are agreed; the Shared Lives carers and the Scheme Management organisation have a key role in supporting and delivering these with the individual. Each care package takes account of the customer's sex, gender, age, ethnicity, sexuality and disability.

Implications for Work Programming

29. None identified.

Conclusion and next Steps

30. Executive approval to procure a new Shared Lives Scheme Management Service is required as set out in the report.