
ADULT SOCIAL CARE CONTRACTS

Responsible Cabinet Member – Veronica Copeland

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of People

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks permission from Council to waive Contract Procedure Rule 17 and renew the following Contracts:-
 - (a) Home Equipment Loan Service (HELS) requires the current Contract to be renewed for one year, bringing it in line with the Durham and Darlington PCT and Durham County Council's (DCC) contract which ends on the 31st March 2013.
 - (b) Avalon, Shared Lives Service, which offers family based support for people with a learning disability, requesting the current agreement to be extended for a maximum of 6 months.

Summary

2. This report seeks approval to waive the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in relation to the services detailed in the report and specifies the reasons for this course of action. The Council Contract Procedure Rules are found in part 3 (Contract Procedure Rules) of the Council's constitution. Details of the services which are being considered are as follows:-
 - (a) **Home Equipment Loan Service** is currently provided by NHS County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services. The service provides equipment to enable people to live independently and safely in their own home. In September 2010 following agreement by Council the HELS contract was renewed for one year plus an option for a one year extension to allow the full extent of options to be reviewed. In reviewing options it has become evident that jointly commissioning a home equipment loans service with DCC and Durham and Darlington PCT adds significant value. Therefore to allow a joint tender for the service all three Contracts need to end at the same time.
 - (b) The proposal is to renew the current contract for one year from 2012 to 2013, to work with the provider in further developing the model, to review and assess the future service outcomes in writing a service specification. This will allow joint commission arrangements to be put in place with DCC and Durham and Darlington PCT.

- (c) **Avalon, Shared Lives** –This service recruits and supports local people to offer support in their home to people with a Learning Disability. The people accessing this service have reduced in number and value for money is a consideration. The Authority is looking to decommission this support and develop a different funding model based on Direct Payments. An extension of 6 months would allow the Authority to understand the detailed implications of this change for the individual, the provider, Avalon and the Local Authority.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that:-

- (a) For HELS it is recommended that a renewal is granted for one year (2012 – 2013) to ensure that the Contract ‘dovetails’ with other Contracts that are in place to support added value and develop improved personalised services that are targeted to those service users with more complex needs. In addition it will afford the opportunity for Adult Social Care to review the current Contract and develop an outcome based contract that supports rehabilitation and reablement.
- (b) For Avalon - it is recommended that an extension is granted for 6 months, from April 2011 to September 2011.

Reasons

4. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-

- (a) Due to the varied and complex needs of the service users accessing these services, it is felt that it would be detrimental to their health and well being to end these contracts.
- (b) To enable continued delivery of services whilst work can be undertaken to review current contract arrangements and for Contracts to be extended to come in line with other Contracts ending.
- (c) To continue with current contract arrangements to allow for a planned and co-ordinated approach involving users and carers to the changes that will occur from changing the way services are delivered in the future.
- (d) To cover the transition period of Home Loans going through a partnership or joint commissioning arrangements to develop a service that supports the new pathways, for example, early interventions, assistive technology and reablement.
- (e) To maintain positive current performance indicators and budget position.

Murray Rose
Director of People

Background Papers

- (i) “Putting People First” DoH 2007
(ii) Halfway Home DH June 2009

Warren Tweed: Extension 3855

S17 Crime and Disorder	This decision will not have an impact on Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This decision will ensure that the current support service is in place to ensure people can continue to have choice and control over their social care support.
Carbon Impact	This decision will not have an impact on Sustainability.
Diversity	This decision will not have an impact on Diversity.
Wards Affected	The decision will affect people across all wards.
Groups Affected	This decision will enable people from the groups in receipt of services to continue a service without adverse impact.
Budget and Policy Framework	Contract procedure rules require this matter to be considered by full Council.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The services procured contribute to delivery of the Community Strategy.
Efficiency	Efficiencies savings will be made once the services have been reviewed and new contracts awarded.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. This report seeks approval to waive the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in relation to the current Contracts detailed in this report and specifies the reasons for the course of action recommended for each individual contract. The Council's Contract Procedure Rules are found in part 3 (Rules of Procurement) of the Council's constitution.

Home Equipment Loan Service

6. The Home Equipment Loans Service (HELs) is currently provided by NHS County Durham and Darlington Community Health Services on behalf of DBC, County Durham and Darlington Primary Care Trust, County Durham Adult Social Care. The function of HELs is to:-
 - (a) Purchase, deliver and collect equipment;
 - (b) Repair and maintain equipment;
 - (c) Recycling and decontamination of equipment;
 - (d) Provide information regarding finance, quality and performance to the partners.
7. The equipment provided is to enable a person to live independently and safely in their own home.

8. The cost of the agreement is for £87,000 per annum. Whilst the overall value of the contract exceeds the Council's tendering threshold of £75,000 it is relevant that:-
 - (a) The Council needs to continue to purchase the provision from the current supplier to cover the transition period of the service going through a partnership/joint commissioning arrangement.
 - (b) The Council continue to receive a service until regional decisions are made about the transformation of community equipment services so that the recommendations can form part of a new service specification.
 - (c) The Council work with its partners in reviewing and shaping the current contract within the transition period, transforming the service to meet future demand in providing more efficient and effective services, (i.e. driver fitters as opposed to drivers solely delivering equipment) that will support future commissioning intentions.
9. It is proposed that this contract should not be tendered in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and that Council waive contract procedure rules in accordance with rule 17. The Contract will be renewed for one year.

Avalon, Shared Lives Services

10. Avalon, Shared Lives Services – this service involves local people offering a room in their home for someone with a learning difficulty. The individual then effectively lives as a member of the host family and is supported to be a part of their local community. Each provider has been assessed and approved and are supported in their role by Avalon. Under the current arrangement the Local Authority commissions Avalon to provide the service. In line with the Personalisation agenda and in an attempt to secure best value, the Authority is exploring alternate funding options for this service. To date the current providers wish to continue to offer support and the four people who currently receive the service are keen for it to continue. There is a piece of work currently being undertaken that considers the impact of funding support in an alternative way, ie through a Direct Payment. The use of a Direct Payment would result in a significant reduction in the current cost of the service. There are also five who receive regular short break support and they are involved in this review. An extension of 6 months would allow the Authority to understand the detailed implications of this change for the individual, the provider, Avalon and the Local Authority.
11. The cost of the current agreement is £118,000.00.

Outcome of Consultation

12. No consultation has been carried out in relation to the content of this report.