
ADULT SOCIAL CARE CONTRACTS

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Veronica Copeland, Adult Social Care and Housing Portfolio

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of People

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks agreement of Council to waive Contract Procedure Rule 18 and renew the Home Equipment Loan Service (HELs) Contract.
2. Permission is sought to waive Contract Procedure Rule 18 and renew the contract with the NHS County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) for the Home Equipment Loan Service (HELs) to enable the current Contract to be renewed for a further one year. The lead contract for this service is held by the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and is due to transfer to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on 1 April 2013 with an end date of 31 March 2014. Durham County Council's contract also ends at this time. This will allow for a joint review and will maintain the added value of a jointly commissioned equipment service.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that:-

The Council waive Contract Procedure Rules as set out in paragraph 11 of the report to allow the renewal of the contract for the provision of HELs. It is recommended that a renewal is granted for one year to ensure continuity of service jointly with the CCG and Durham County Council.

Reasons

4. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-
 - (a) To enable continued delivery of services whilst work can be undertaken to review current contract arrangements with partners and to align the contract end date with that of the CCG as lead partner.

- (b) To continue with current contract arrangements to allow for a planned and co-ordinated approach involving users and carers in the commissioning process and any possible changes to the way services are delivered in the future.

Murray Rose
Director of People

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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	All.
Groups Affected	Those accessing the existing service.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision is within the current framework.
Key Decision	This is not an Executive decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an Executive decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The services procured contribute to delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy.
Efficiency	Efficiency savings will be made once the services have been reviewed and new contracts awarded.

MAIN REPORT

5. This report seeks approval to waive the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in relation to the service detailed in the report and explains why the waiver is sought. The Council Contract Procedure Rules are found in the Constitution. .
6. Home Equipment Loan Service (HELS) is currently provided by NHS County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, and commissioned by County Durham and Darlington PCT (to be transferred to Clinical Commissioning Group), Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council.
7. The function of HELS is to:-
 - (a) Purchase, deliver and collect equipment
 - (b) Repair and maintain equipment
 - (c) Recycle and decontaminate equipment
 - (d) Provide information regarding finance, quality and performance to the partners.
8. The equipment provided is to enable a person to live independently and safely in their own home.

9. The cost of the agreement is for £87,000 per annum. Whilst the overall value of the contract exceeds the Council's threshold of £75,000 for which a formal tendering process would usually be required, 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 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, (for instance, a driver fitter as opposed to drivers solely delivering equipment) that will support future commissioning intentions.
10. Initiatives such as the Driver Fitter Project have been jointly funded with the PCT and DCC to improve the service making it more efficient and cost effective which in turn will be evaluated and tested for feasibility in terms of future commissioning of the service.
11. The proposal is to renew the current contract for a further one year to 2014 and to review and assess the service outcomes the current contract provides for individuals that will allow joint commissioning arrangements to be put in place with DCC and the Clinical Commissioning Groups.
12. Due to the transition of commissioning arrangements from the PCT and the planning framework for the alignment of budget allocation for the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), a decision has been taken not to tender for a new Home Equipment Loans service in 2012 that would begin 2013, instead this has been put back one year to 2014.
13. The overriding benefit to DBC is that the amount of funding it contributes (5%) to the overall HELS budget against the returns DBC receives with the power of the PCT's bulk purchasing. It is therefore more favourable financially to DBC to commissioning jointly than acting as a single entity commissioning a separate service. It would not be currently viable to commission such a service as a single agency due to the higher cost associated with providing a stand alone service.