
SUPPORTING PEOPLE CONTRACTS

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Veronica Copeland,
Adult Services Portfolio**

Responsible Director - Murray Rose, Director of People

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval of Council to waive Contract Procedure Rules under Exemption Clause 15 of the Contract Procedure Rules for a period of 6 months in order to undertake appropriate procurement processes which will deliver value for money, giving sufficient time to ensure the process is robust.

Summary

2. Due to the Comprehensive Spending Review by central Government this Autumn the Supporting People Team were unable to proceed with the original timescales for re-tendering services for People with Physical or Sensory Impairment, Floating Support service for Victims of Domestic Abuse and People with Drug or Alcohol Misuse Problems. As a result there has been an unavoidable delay in making the appropriate preparations for the procurement of services.
3. The current contracts for the provision of Housing Related Support for the above client groups terminate on 31 March 2011.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) Council agree to waive Contract Procedure Rules under Exemption Clause 15 to allow the contracts detailed in paragraph 9 of the report to be extended by six months to enable a new service model to be developed.

Reasons

5. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons:-
 - (a) To enable the continued delivery of services to vulnerable people and allow Officers to complete the redesign of Supporting People Services;

(b) To procure future services which provide value for money.

Murray Rose
Director of People

Background Papers

No background papers were used in this report

Denise Rudkin : Extension 2284

S17 Crime and Disorder	This decision will not have an impact on Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	This decision will ensure that support services to vulnerable people will continue to be in place whilst a review of services is undertaken.
Carbon Impact	This decision will not have a carbon impact.
Diversity	This decision will not have an impact on Diversity.
Wards Affected	This decision will not affect any wards.
Groups Affected	This decision will not have an impact on any groups.
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 the delivery of the Community Strategy.
Efficiency	The services procured as a result of service review will give better value for money, increasing frontline support and having support focussed on positive outcomes.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. The strategic review of supporting people services for, People with Physical or Sensory Impairment, Victims of Domestic Abuse and People with Drug or Alcohol misuse Problems commenced in February 2010. In the original timetable, the review would have been completed and officers would have been in a position to commence a procurement exercise at the end of 2010. The new support services would have been procured to commence on the first April 2011.
7. When the Comprehensive Spending Review was announced, there were indications that there would be significant cuts to the grants awarded to the local authorities and therefore there was an expectation this could have an impact on the budgets available to re-commission Supporting People services.
8. To manage any budget reductions it was deemed prudent to delay any procurement for new services until the Council had a clearer picture of the impact of the spending review on the Area Based Grants allocated.
9. Approval is, therefore, sought to extend the following contracts by six months:-
 - (a) Broadacres Housing Association (Accommodation based support for People with Physical or sensory impairment)
 - (b) Sanctuary Carr Gomm (floating support for victims of Domestic Abuse)
 - (c) DISC (accommodation based support for People with Drug or Alcohol misuse problems)
 - (d) DISC (floating support for People with Drug or Alcohol misuse problems)
10. The Council needs to be clear about its purchasing intentions prior to undertaking a procurement exercise to ensure that value for money is achieved. It is expected that new services will provide increased frontline support for vulnerable individuals, concentrating on support which is focussed to deliver positive outcomes. Renewal of the current contracts for a specific extension of time will provide the opportunity to do this and ensure that the current services are not disrupted and vulnerable people who use the services continue to get the support they need whilst the redesign of future services is undertaken.

Outcome of Consultation

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