
ADULT SOCIAL CARE CONTRACTS

Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Veronica Copeland, Adult Services

Responsible Director – Cliff Brown, Director Community Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek permission of Council to waive Contract Procedure Rules under Exemption Clause 15 of the Contract Procedure Rules in order to:-
 - (a) Renew a number of contracts within the Adult Social Services area allowing Officers to review a number of existing service areas in line with current national and local policy development.
 - (b) Undertake appropriate procurement processes which will deliver value for money and services which are in line with national and local policy changes.

Summary

2. A number of national and local strategies have been developed that will change how Adult Social Care is provided in the future:-
 - (a) December 2007 – ‘Putting People First’ – sets out the personalisation agenda and will have an impact on all adult services.
 - (b) February 2009 – National Dementia Strategy ‘ Living Well with Dementia provides a strategic framework within which local services can plan to deliver quality improvements to dementia services, providing advice and guidance for health and social care commissioners in planning and development of services and provide a guide to the content of high quality services for dementia.
 - (c) Local Strategy ‘Later Life in Darlington – Joint Action for those with a Mental Health Problem 2008 – 2011’ will be published in October/November 2009.
 - (d) National Service Framework for Adult Mental Health and New Horizons strategic vision will impact on development of future services in the area of adult mental health.
 - (e) Development of a joint commissioning strategy with health.
3. These national and local drivers for change will dictate and influence how, why and what commissioners will need to purchase in the future. Therefore it has not been feasible to

look at procurement exercises for a number of service areas at this juncture as the landscape has not only changed but will change further, requiring commissioners to approach commissioning differently, developing contracts which are much more flexible, person centred and provide real outcomes for people.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that Council agree to waive Contract Procedure Rules under Exemption Clause 15 to allow for the Adult Social Care contracts outlined in item 16 of this report to be renewed.

Reason

5. The recommendation is supported by the following reason:-
 - (a) To enable the continued delivery of services to vulnerable people and allow Officers to review the way in which adult social care services are provided and procure future services which are in line with national and local change drivers.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in this report.

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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 support services to vulnerable people will continue to be in place whilst a review of services is undertaken.
Sustainability	This decision will not have an impact on sustainability.
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 a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent 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 meet National and Local change drivers.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. In December 2007 the Government published the concordat “Putting People First”. This concordat set out the future direction of adult social care. A key element of this new direction is to ensure the development of a diverse and high quality market place in care and support services that offer real choice and control to service users and their carers, and the development of personal budgets for those people who need social care as a means of maximising individual choice and control.
7. The introduction of personal budgets will result in significant changes to the adult social care operating system. In order for personal budgets to be effective appropriate advice, information and support needs to be in place.
8. The Business Transformation Team, responsible for taking the personalisation agenda forward, was fully recruited to earlier this year. The aim of the Team is to develop a plan to ensure more people who access social care services have increased choice and control over their social care packages.
9. In order to do this effectively a major culture change is required across whole systems. The first stage of this is to have a communication and engagement plan in place where service users and carers “buy in” to the personalisation agenda. In line with the promotion of the agenda the development of an infrastructure in which there is a local market that is sufficiently mature to user-led commissioning/purchasing.
10. It is anticipated that by April 2010 the beginnings of this infrastructure should be in place with developed work streams making the major changes necessary in transforming social care.
11. The work streams will be the drivers for change and will dictate and influence how, why and what commissioners will need to purchase in the future. Therefore it has not been feasible to look at procurement exercises for a number of service areas at this juncture as the landscape continues to change, requiring commissioners to approach commissioning differently, developing contracts which are much more flexible, person centred and provide real outcomes for people.
12. As well as implementing the transformation agenda other change drivers such as the National Dementia Strategy, Later Life in Darlington – Joint Action for those with a Mental Health Problem Strategy, National Service Framework for Adult Mental Health and the New Horizons Strategy and development of a Joint Commissioning Strategy will impact on future commissioning, and development of services in the Borough of Darlington.
13. Renewal of the current contracts for a specific period of time will ensure that the current services are not disrupted and vulnerable people who use the services continue to get the support they need whilst the review of existing services is undertaken and new services developed in line with the national and local change drivers.
14. The Council needs to be clear about its purchasing intentions prior to undertaking a procurement exercise to ensure that value for money is achieved.

15. A report was submitted to Council in July 2008 requesting an agreement to waive Contract Procedure Rules to allow the strategic commissioning group to review the way Adult Social Care is delivered. However, the size and complexity of the task has been greater than anticipated and there have been further changes that need to be taken into account, which has resulted in a delay in undertaking the work required.
16. Permission is sought to renew the following adult social care contracts:-
- (a) **Dimensions Disability Initiative (DAD)** – contract ends 30 November 2009. Request to renew for four months under the existing terms and conditions whilst a procurement exercise is undertaken to contract for a period of one year with a one year option to extend. This will allow the time for a review of the service to be undertaken. Annual cost of contract - £136,039.
 - (b) **Direct Payments Support Service (DAD)** – contract ends 30 November 2009. Request to renew for four months under the existing terms and conditions whilst a procurement exercise is undertaken to contract for a period of one year with a one year option to extend. This will allow the time for a review of the service to be undertaken. Annual cost of contract - £122,329.
 - (c) **St Hilda’s Day Service for Older People with Mental Health Needs (MIND)** – contract ends 31 March 2010. Request to renew for a period of one year to allow for a review of service requirements and a procurement exercise to be undertaken. A new contract will be in place by 1 April 2011. Annual cost of contract - £195,148
 - (d) **Consolidated Community Services (MIND) and Darlington Mental Health Centre (Mental Health Matters)** – contracts end 31 March 2010. Request to renew both contracts for a period of one year to allow for a review of service requirements and a procurement exercise to be undertaken. A new contract to be in place by 1 April 2011. Annual cost of contract – MIND - £120,117. Annual cost of contract – Mental Health Matters - £206,298.
 - (e) **Bathing Service (Age Concern)** – contract ends 31 March 2010. Request to renew for a period of one year to allow for a review of service requirements and a procurement exercise to be undertaken. A new contract will be in place by 1 April 2011. Annual cost of contract - £43,035.

Outcome of Consultation

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