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**ADULT SOCIAL CARE & SUPPORTING PEOPLE CONTRACTS**

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

**Responsible Director – Cliff Brown, Director Community Services**

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**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:-
  - (a) Provide an opportunity to jointly develop a new model of service to meet the day care and support opportunities for people with mental health needs.
  - (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 which are changing how Adult Social Care is provided:-
  - (a) New Horizons (DH 2010), replaces the National Service Framework for Adult Mental Health. Focused on public health, employment and a rehabilitation pathways, services should be commissioned for outcomes and meet the personalisation agenda.
  - (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) December 2007 – ‘Putting People First’ – sets out personalisation with the implication that Councils are required to provide person centred support and care services for adults.
  - (d) Development of a joint mental health 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 a procurement exercise in isolation. As a Council we are seeking to strengthen the

approach to commissioning by developing contracts which are much more flexible, person centred which provide better outcomes for people. The proposals in this report therefore seek to maximise the opportunity to jointly develop new services.

## **Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that Council agree to waive Contract Procedure Rules under Exemption Clause 15 to allow the contracts detailed in paragraph 10 of the report to be extended by six months to enable a new service model to be developed.

## **Reason**

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 Mental Health Day Opportunities and the manner in which adult social care and supporting people services are provided.
  - (b) To procure future services which reflect 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 is to transform current provision through the development of a diverse and high quality market place in care and support services to 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. A specific mental health national driver for redesign is New Horizons (DH 2010), which replaces the National Service Framework for Adult Mental Health. The policy guidance focuses upon public health, employment and a rehabilitation pathway as opposed to being service driven, for all adults. Individual needs will be met through person centred services commissioned to meet outcomes. This contributes to the personalisation agenda for vulnerable adults with mental ill health.
8. 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. A Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships has been recruited to strengthen the strategic commissioning processes to ensure new services offer flexibility for individual choice and control.
9. A day opportunities re-provision project has commenced, to incorporate the latest guidance as outlined previously into contracts. This is driven by the end of current contracts in March 2011, in order to procure new services by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. However, the time available is insufficient to maximise the opportunity to redesign the service model jointly between Adult Social Care and Supporting People.
10. Approval is, therefore, sought to extend the following contracts by six months:-
  - (a) Darlington Mental Health Resource Centre (Mental Health Matters)
  - (b) St Hilda’s Day Care Service (Darlington MIND Ltd.)
  - (c) Consolidated Community Services for People with Mental Health Problems (Darlington MIND Ltd)
  - (d) DBC Mental Health Services – Floating Support
  - (e) Darlington MIND – Hostel and Accommodation
  - (f) The Carr Gomm Society – Floating Support, Hostel, Long Term accommodation
  - (g) DISC independent Living – Floating Support.
11. The Council needs to be clear about its purchasing intentions prior to undertaking a procurement exercise to ensure that value for money is achieved. 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 in line with the national and local change drivers.

## **Future Provision**

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 Joint Commissioning Strategy will impact on future commissioning, and development of services in the Borough of Darlington.
13. The Darlington Dementia Collaborative Project will also be reviewing pathways in detail over the next few months through Rapid Improvement Workshops. The outcome of the workshops will provide rich data on which to build the Day Opportunities model for people with dementia.

## **Outcome of Consultation**

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