

## **CORE OFFER BUDGET FOR COMMISSIONING & CONTRACTS STAFF**

### **WHY DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND WHAT DOES IT NEED TO COVER?**

The Local Authority must purchase services in accordance with its procurement rules and within national and relevant European legislation. Knowledgeable and experienced staff are required to develop accurate service specifications, based on the population profile, the priorities of the council and within the available budget.

A single Commissioning and Contracting team enables the Local Authority to fulfil the statutory responsibility to source appropriate services to fulfil eligible health and social care commitments for children, for adults and to secure housing related support services to support vulnerable individuals to reduce the likelihood of homelessness.

### **HOW DOES THE CORE OFFER BUDGET MEET THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS?**

There are some elements of social care and housing-related support that are provided in-house to some degree – either where there is specialist expertise required or where the council has chosen to retain at least an element of provision to manage the risk of availability. However, the vast majority of care and support to meet eligible adults' and children's social care need is sourced via procured provision externally where it is more cost effective to do so. Externally bought provision totals approximately £30,000,000 annually. The commissioning and contracts team provide this function.

The commissioning and contracts staff deal with the full commissioning cycle, from reviewing needs, working with the market, securing provision, ensuring value for money and reviewing and quality assuring services. In doing, so they work closely with legal, procurement and finance staff.

The staff also fulfil functions relating to safeguarding in all externally commissioned services.

The core offer will continue to provide sufficient staffing to undertake the council's obligations.

### **DOES THIS DIFFER FROM THE CURRENT SERVICE?**

The core staffing would be less than the current establishment but will be determined by a review of future service levels to be maintained. This may impact on the level of contracts monitoring and quality assurance work that can be undertaken but would maintain the work required to meet statutory duties.

### **WHAT IS THE CORE BUDGET MADE UP OF?**

**2019/20 -**     £580,289 Staffing & running costs  
                  £18,305 Overheads

**Total £598,594**

Commissioning staff for adults and children's social care contracts, for some housing contracts and for public health contracts.