

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 1st March 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health & Adults

SUBJECT: Award of Housing Related Support Contracts

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board of the award of a contract for two housing related support services and the none award of a third service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1) **note the award of a contract to Halton YMCA for the provision of housing related support services at the Halton Lodge YMCA Hostel in the annual sum of £408,636, and for the provision of a Nightstop supported lodgings service in the annual sum of £46,250; and**
- 2) **note the decision not to award a contract for the provision of housing related support through the Advice and Guidance service (currently delivered by Halton YMCA and known as Y's Up).**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In September 2011 Executive Board Sub Committee received a report outlining the intention to tender a number of housing related support services where existing contractual arrangements were due to expire at the end of March 2012. These included services known as Halton Lodge YMCA, Nightstop supported lodgings, and Y's Up advice and guidance, all currently provided by Halton YMCA.

3.2 Following an open tender process facilitated by the Procurement Team through 'The Chest' only 1 bid was received for each service, in all three cases from Halton YMCA.

3.3 The tendered prices and current annual contract costs are shown in the following table.

Service	Current Cost	Tendered Price	Difference
Halton Lodge YMCA	£457,288	£408,636	- £48,652
Nightstop	£48,688	£46,250	-£2,438
Y's Up	£46,347	£41,703	-£4,734

3.4 The Operational Director Commissioning and Complex Care has awarded a contract for the Halton Lodge YMCA and Nightstop services to Halton YMCA and this is being reported to Board for information in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 2.11.

3.5 However during the tender evaluation process it became clear that many of the functions the Y's Up advice and guidance service provides are a duplication of those provided by other organisations e.g.

- preparing for work – CV preparation, interview technique, work experience placements, job search – provided by Job Centre Plus.
- Identifying volunteering opportunities – provided by HVA, Job Centre Plus and Sure Start to Later Life.
- Educational opportunities – provided by Halton College.
- Signposting to other services – provided by HDL.
- Accommodation advice – provided by HDL, Housing Solutions, RSLs and CAB.

3.6 It has therefore been decided not to award this contract and to formally decommission the service from the contract expiry date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Young people constitute the main client group for the YMCA hostel and Nightstop services, and the award of these contracts will ensure continuity of provision.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There are clear links between homelessness and an increased risk of poor physical and mental health. The continued provision of these accommodation based services is therefore vital.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 It is made clear in every tender that the Council reserves the right not to award a contract, and the EIA suggests the impact of decommissioning the Y's Up service will not be too great.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken to ensure the withdrawal of the Y's Up service will not disproportionately affect any vulnerable groups.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.