

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 14 March 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education & Social Care

SUBJECT: Liverpool City Region Flexible Purchasing System

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To give an update on the Vulnerable Adults Supported Accommodation contract and Liverpool City Region Complex Care Flexible Purchasing System.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) agrees to Halton joining the Liverpool City Region Complex Care Flexible Purchasing System; and**
- 2) delegates authority to the Strategic Director, People to negotiate charges related to the Flexible Purchasing System.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The current Vulnerable Adults Supported Accommodation contracts have been in place since 2016 (services transferred between June and September 2016), and are due to end 30th June 2019,

3.2 Work is in progress to consider options for these services from July 2019.

Extend existing contracts

3.3 The contracts have the option to extend for a further 12 months to June 2020, and it is proposed to award this extension to give stability and continuity to services, and allow time for other options to be considered. Services are monitored on an ongoing basis by the Quality Assurance Team, Social Care teams and Commissioners to ensure good quality services are delivered to meet individual needs and contractual requirements.

3.4 Join LCR Complex Care Flexible Purchasing System
Liverpool City Region (LCR) is currently looking to develop a

Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) which will cover complex care services for people with Learning Disabilities and/or Autism, Mental Health Conditions (including Forensic Needs), Acquired Brain Injury, Physical Disabilities, and Dual Diagnosis (including secondary substance misuse issues) primarily between the age of 18 to 65, however will be inclusive of young people aged 16+ (transitions) and older adults (65+) with complex care needs when required. This specifically includes service users over the age of 16 who are currently placed in in-patient settings (in and outside LCR) who will be ready for discharge to the community in the near future.

The FPS will be managed by Liverpool City Council and will include the following services:

- Community based services offering personal care and support either with or without accommodation
- Registered residential and nursing care services (excluding older peoples' care homes)
- Connecting with others/Learning new skills
- Positive behaviour support
- Independent support planning/Brokerage services

Halton will have the opportunity for local call off under the framework from its commencement for new business, and for existing services when their current contracts end.

In Halton, there are a number of spot purchase arrangements in place for services commissioned for individuals with complex needs where the current framework providers are unable to either meet the persons' needs or provide the support within the required timescales. By using the LCR system which will enable access to a wider range of service providers, it will provide consistent contractual requirements for all supported accommodation services and ensure all providers are subject to the same robust monitoring and quality assurance process.

An advantage of joining the FPS is that a separate procurement process will not be required when existing contracts end and the FPS can be awarded for a longer term. It is proposed to award the FPS for a maximum of 10 years, with the initial term for 3 years with the option to extend for a further 3 years plus 4 years basis subject to ongoing monitoring and a review of the system after the initial 3 year period.

The contracts awarded through the FPS will be Halton specific, and will include local conditions to ensure compliance with Halton's Quality Assurance Framework, Safeguarding Policies and Procurement Standing Orders.

3.5 Independent Service Funds

Independent Service Funds (ISF) are an alternative to direct payments and commissioned services. Where direct payments have high levels of choice and control and responsibility for the individual, ISFs have the advantage of providing flexible support to individuals but without the responsibility of managing direct payments as this is the responsibility of the support provider.

PossAbilities have experience of delivering services funded by ISF in Rochdale. Should the decision be made not to join the LCR FPS, consideration may be given to the introduction of a local ISF pilot during 2019 to allow local systems and processes to be developed and PossAbilities have indicated they would be willing to work with the Council to explore this option further.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There is a cost associated with joining the LCR Flexible Purchasing System. The total initial set up cost is £14,000 with annual ongoing costs of £7,000. The cost for Halton (based on local population) is £1,666 initial payment and an annual contribution of £833.

The cost is being questioned however, as there is an agreement in place across LCR not to charge for collaborative working.

The FPS will not be setting an hourly rate initially, costs will be agreed at a local level and Halton will retain control over rates paid.

There is, however, a High Cost Task and Finish Group looking at costs across LCR and the introduction of a LCR framework rate may be considered as a future development. Delegated authority is requested to agree Halton's position with regard to this matter to ensure services continue to represent value for money and may be delivered within Halton's budgetary constraints.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

This service will support and provide suitable accommodation for young people in transition.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Individuals accessing the service will be supported to access appropriate training and employment opportunities.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The service will support people and access relevant services to maintain their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Services will safeguard vulnerable people by providing care and support to remain safe at home.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The services will continue to be monitored in line with the Council's Quality Assurance Framework and CQC.

7.2 Contracts will comply with the Council's Standing Orders in relation to procurement and will be monitored in line with the Council's Quality Assurance framework to ensure contractual requirements are met with regard to quality, performance and outcomes.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Support providers will be required to demonstrate they embrace and comply with the Equality Act.

9.0 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

The LCR FPS will allow the Council access a range of services for vulnerable adults without the need to undertake a local procurement process but still retaining local control over quality and performance standards and funding levels.

10.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Local Procurement Process

If Halton does not join the LCR FPS a local procurement process will need to be undertaken in 2019 prior to the contracts ending in 2020. The last tender undertaken in 2016 resulted in a change of support provider for the majority of services which destabilised a number of services due to organisational and staffing changes.

This would be a risk, as given the clients being supported consistency of support is key.

11.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

The expected go live date of the LCR FPS is May 2019 subject to completion of a procurement process.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.