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Executive Board Sub Committee

Thursday, 15 December 2011 10.00 a.m.
The Board Room - Municipal Building,
Widnes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

PART 1

Item	Page No
1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and, with personal and prejudicial interests (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members), to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.	
3. CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO	
(A) FOSTER CARE ALLOWANCES 2012-13	1 - 4
4. HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO	

*Please contact Gill Ferguson on 0151 471 7395 or e-mail gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 12 January 2012*

Item	Page No
(A) PROCUREMENT OF CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR EXTRA CARE HOUSING	5 - 7
5. COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO	
(A) SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES	8 - 11

In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 15th December 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children and Enterprise
PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT: Foster Care Allowances 2012-13
WARD: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek agreement to the level of allowances to be paid to foster carers in 2012-13

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the recommended level of increase in allowances is agreed.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 As part of the department's Placement Strategy for Children in Care, the level of allowance paid to Halton foster carers was increased in September 2010.

3.2 This was done for a number of reasons, but was ultimately aimed at increasing the number of foster carers available within the borough and supporting their retention. Improved finance was just one component of investment in the service which included an improved range of support to carers, more training opportunities and improved engagement in service developments.

3.3 The recruitment of carers continues to represent a challenge and whilst 10 carers have been approved since January 2011, 12 carers have been withdrawn for various reasons. The recruitment position therefore remains challenging.

3.4 However, whilst the number of carers remains a challenge, the quality of the pool of carers available is now better than in previous years and is better able to meet the needs of our children.

3.5 It therefore remains important that the allowances paid to carers are appropriate, competitive and attractive.

3.6 The proposed revised allowances are contained within Appendix 1. It is important that the allowances paid to carers are increased to reflect actual costs incurred by them and it is therefore proposed that all allowances are increased by 4% (rounded down to the nearest pound).

4.0 RAISING ASPIRATIONS

- 4.1 The recruitment and retention of a sufficient number of foster carers will significantly contribute to improving social, emotional, health and educational outcomes for Children in Care.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A sufficient number and quality of foster carers is essential in order to meet the Council's Sufficiency Duty.
- 5.2 Additional carers will result in more placement choice for Children in Care which will be reflected in improved stability of placement.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Foster carers are a key resource in ensuring that children in care achieve positive outcomes

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Stable, local placements contribute to a young person's ability to sustain education and employment and to achieve their potential.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Placements within a family setting are recognised as being beneficial to children in care and contributing to good physical and emotional health.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Stable placements within a family and within their own community can positively impact as a young person's ability to develop as a socially aware citizen, able to protect themselves and others.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Improving outcomes for children in care will enhance their ability to contribute productively to the borough

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The failure to recruit and retain foster carers has a significant impact on Council budgets.
- 7.2 If in house foster care is not available then provision in the independent sector has to be sourced. This can be 3 times as expensive as the average cost of an in house placement.
- 7.3 Due to a lack of carers in 2009, Halton had 32 placements with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFA's). At an average cost of £840 per week per placement, this represented expenditure of almost £27k per

week, £1.4m per year.

7.4 The situation in October 2011 is very different, there are 9 IFA placements, 4 of which will end shortly, with a predicted expenditure of £355k per year.

7.5 The proposal to raise allowances by 4% will cost approx. £64,541. However, the failure to recruit and retain our own carers may result in the purchase of expensive IFA placements, where just 1 placement would cost, on average, £44,000. It is important that our current position is not reversed.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The increase is needed due to the general increase in the cost of living and preferential rates being offered in the independent sector.

8.2 Failure to maintain appropriate, competitive and attractive allowances may result in a lower level of recruitment and difficulties with retention.

8.3 Insufficient in house foster carers and the resulting need to purchase provision externally will have a very significant impact on the Council's budget

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 Maintaining good quality foster carers in sufficient numbers is essential to ensuring that the needs of Children in Care are met and that they are given the best opportunities to achieve in line with their peers

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Halton Strategy for Children in Care 2011-14	Grosvenor House	Christine Taylor
Placement Strategy	Grosvenor House	Christine Taylor
Equality Impact Assessment	Grosvenor House	Christine Taylor

Appendix 1

Budget	2010-11	2012-13 (Proposed)
Basic/Holiday/Xmas	£1,488,720	£1,548,269
Other allowances	£124,810	£129,802
TOTAL	£1,613,530	£1,678,071

Allowances**Current**

	Weekly	Birthday	Xmas	Holiday
0-4	240.00	125.00	125.00	250.00
5-15	280.00	150.00	150.00	330.00
16-17	320.00	200.00	200.00	430.00

Proposed

	Weekly	Birthday	Xmas	Holiday
0-4	250.00	130.00	130.00	260.00
5-15	291.00	156.00	156.00	343.00
16-17	332.00	208.00	208.00	447.00

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 15th December 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Health & Adults

SUBJECT: Procurement of Care and Support Services for Extra Care Housing

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board that tenders are to be invited for the provision of care and support services in three Extra Care housing schemes. This is a report for information purposes, to comply with Procurement Standing Order Part 2.1 due to the estimated value of the tender being in excess of £1m.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board note that a procurement process is to be undertaken for the services set out in this report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Board will be aware that two new Extra Care housing schemes are being developed, one comprising 47 units by Halton Housing Trust at Liverpool Rd in Ditton which should be ready summer 2012, and one comprising 90 units by Cosmopolitan Housing Association at the Boardwalk, West Bank which should be ready early 2014. Additionally there is an existing Riverside scheme of 40 units at Dorset Gardens in Palacefields where services need to be tendered.

3.2 The Council is responsible for procuring the personal care and housing related support services that are to be provided within these schemes and officers are about to initiate a procurement exercise. One provider will be sought to provide services across the three sites in order to secure maximum efficiencies and economies of scale, and a contract period of 5 years is to be offered.

3.3 Financial provision for the contract is contained within the Community Directorates Supporting People and Community Care budgets. The estimated value of the contract over the five years is £5.7m.

3.4 Tender submissions will be evaluated on both price and quality using a 70% price and 30% quality ratio. The outcome of the tenders

will be reported to the Board in the normal way.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The method of procurement complies with the Council's procurement policy and Procurement Standing Orders, and will utilise the 'Chest' e-procurement portal.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The expansion of the Extra Care housing service is taking place against a background of financial austerity which will require careful management of the Supporting People and Community Care budgets. Although there is still a need for additional Extra Care schemes, efforts to secure development funding have been deferred until such time as the revenue consequences on the Council become affordable.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The services to be provided in the two new housing developments will offer employment opportunities to local people.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The provision of on site care and support services will help residents to lead a healthy and active lifestyle within a caring environment.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Risk will be a particular consideration in the tender evaluation process given that a failure by the appointed service provider may affect all three schemes. A bond will be secured to mitigate any adverse financial impact of a contract failure, and robust service

monitoring should provide early warning of any performance issues.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 All contractors will be required to demonstrate that they embrace and comply with the Equality Act, and services will be monitored to ensure this is the case.

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

None.

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 15th December 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Substance Misuse Services

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek delegated authority to the Strategic Director Communities, in consultation with the portfolio-holder for Safer Halton, to extend the contracts of 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Addaction & ARCH Initiatives on a month by month basis until March 31st 2012.
- 1.2 To seek authority for the Council to accept the assignment of the lease of Ashley House until it expires in March 2015.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) **in the light of exceptional circumstances set out in 3.4 below, for the purpose of Standing Order 1.8.2b, procurement Standing Orders 2.0.1 and 2.1 – 2.6 be waived, and the Strategic Director Communities be authorised to extend the following contracts direct and without competition for the current providers; ARCH initiatives, Addaction & 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, in order to ensure continuous care and support to those currently in receipt of drug and alcohol treatment;**
- (2) **the contract extensions authorised in (1) be, on a month by month basis, over the period commencing 1st January 2012 and extending to 31st March 2012;**
- (3) **the Strategic Director Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, to take such action as is necessary, to effect a smooth transition to the new substance misuse service; and**
- (4) **the Committee endorses the recommendation of the Asset Management Group and approves the assignment of the lease from the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust for Ashley House until March 2015.**

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In February 2011, Executive Board Sub Committee authorised the Strategic Director, Communities, to carry out all necessary steps in relation to the open tendering and commissioning of a community based recovery orientated Drug and Alcohol Substance Misuse service.
- 3.2 On the 22nd September 2011, Executive Board Sub Committee resolved that in accordance with Standing Order 2.11b, the Operational Director Commissioning and Complex Care be authorised, to enter into a contract with Crime Reduction Initiatives, who through an open tender process had been assessed as being the most economically advantageous and effective organisation to deliver the new substance misuse service.
- 3.3 The Committee also resolved that in the light of exceptional circumstances, for the purpose of Standing Order 1.8.2b, Procurement Standing Orders 2.0.1 and 2.1 to 2.6 be waived, and the Operational Director Commissioning and Complex Care be authorised to extend the following contracts direct and without competition for the current providers; ARCH Initiatives, Addaction and 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, in order to ensure continuous care and support to those currently in receipt of drug treatment. Contracts were extended up until December 31st 2011.
- 3.4 Following the award of the new contract to Crime Reduction Initiatives, clarification on a number of issues relating to the contractual process and the transfers of service has meant that the process has taken longer to conclude.
- 3.5 In order to ensure that the transfer to the new substance misuse service is both clinically safe and complies with TUPE regulations, authority is sort for the Strategic Director Communities, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Safer Halton, to extend current service contracts on a month by month basis until 31st March 2012.
- 3.6 Substance misuse services are currently delivered from Ashley House in Widnes. The property is leased by 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust from a private landlord and has been subject to considerable investment by the Commissioners over the preceding years.
- 3.7 On the 9th June 2011, the Asset Management Group supported a proposal whereby the lease for Ashley House was transferred to the Council from 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, at the conclusion of their contract.

- 3.8 Under the proposed new arrangements, the Council would sub-lease Ashley House to the new incoming substance misuse service provider, Crime Reduction Initiatives, thereby ensuring a seamless continuity of service.
- 3.9 Authority is now being sort to endorse the Asset Management Group's decision and for the Council to accept the assignment of the lease until it expires in March 2015.
- 3.10 the business case to support the proposal to waive is;
VALUE FOR MONEY & COMPETITION; there are approximately 700 individuals and 150 cares accessing services at Ashley House. A significant number will have a range of complex needs related to their health, offending or family relationships as a result of substance misuse. Maintaining a continuity of care with these individuals is an important aspect with regards to managing both their personal risks and risks to the wider community. Robust performance monitoring processes that include comparators with regional and national performance measures and feedback of service users & carers experiences of the service they receive are in place to ensure both value for money and achievement of standards.

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY; The choices regarding the extension of these contracts will be available for audit and inspection. Details of expenditure and performance are reported to the Safer Halton Partnership. The Officers supporting the award of these contracts will comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. Functional accountability for the contract will be with the Operational Director, Commissioning & Complex Care, and the contract would be subject to internal and external audit & PPB scrutiny.

PROPRIETY & SECURITY; The contract documents will include the council's standard integrity clauses and staff only with a need to know will have commercial information about the contracts.

POSITION OF THE CONTRACT UNDER PUBLIC CONTRACTS REGULATIONS 2006; under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 Health and Social Services are a part-exempt service.

4.0 FINANCE & OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Currently there are no financial implications. Costs associated with service delivery and Ashley House can be met through existing budgets.
- 4.2 The financial implications for the Council are that if the lease is not extended beyond its current term of March 2015, there will be a requirement to reinstate the premises to its previous function. The estimated cost of this based on a desk top exercise is £152k.

Contingency arrangements have been made for this sum in current budgets.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1** Not approving contract extensions would result in a temporary loss of services for approximately 700 individuals and would result in not only significant harm to those individuals but also increased substance misuse related crime, presentations to the NHS, homelessness and risks to children & young people of substance misusing parents.
- 5.2** If Halton Borough Council accepted an assignment of the lease and then sub-let the premises to the new provider, the Council would be able to ensure that a property was available for business continuity purposes, should the new provider default on their contractual obligations to provide a substance misuse service.
- 5.3** Although there are financial risks to Halton Borough Council as described in 4.2, these risks would be present, regardless of whether or not Halton Borough Council accepted an assignment of the lease.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1** Approving an extension to these contracts will ensure continuity of services to vulnerable people at risk of social exclusion.

7.0 CONTRIBUTION TO PRIORITIES

- 7.1 Children & Young People**
Reducing the impact of parental substance misuse is a key outcome for the service.
- 7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills**
Sustaining employment, education & training is a key outcome for the service.
- 7.3 Healthy Halton**
Improving health and well being is a key outcome for the service.
- 7.4 Safer Halton**
Reducing substance misuse related crime is a key outcome for the service.
- 7.5 Urban Renewal**
None identified

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

None under the meaning of the act.