

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 1st April 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Adult & Community

SUBJECT: Preliminary Estimates Report on a Framework for the Provision of Personal Care and Housing Related Support for Adults with a Learning Disability or Mental Health Needs

WARDS: ALL

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the detail of proposals to establish a framework contract for the provision of personal care and housing related support for adults with a learning disability or mental health needs. The Framework will enable a greater dialogue between commissioners and providers about how best to develop the right services for individuals, prior to purchasing social care and support for individuals or groups of individuals.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) Members approve the report and give the Strategic Director of Adult and Community permission to undertake a tender exercise inviting providers of housing and personal care services for adults with learning disabilities or mental health needs to apply for inclusion on a framework agreement**
- (ii) Members agree to accept a further report following completion of the Framework tender to update them on the outcome of the tender and outline the programme for re-tendering current services.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Following on from the Department of Health's White Paper and the Local Authority Circular "*Transforming Social Care*", with its emphasis on establishing personal budgets and the move towards choice and control being held by service users, the Adult and Community Directorate has been looking at best practice models in the provision of Supported Living Services for adults with learning disabilities and those with mental health needs. After extensive research it has become clear that very few local authorities have found a satisfactory service model to resolve the issues generated by the need to reconcile the move to more personalised services with the current methods of contracting.

3.2 Consequently after much discussion it was agreed that the best model would be to move away from the current arrangement of contracts with individual service providers for specific schemes. It is therefore proposed that a

Framework is developed – which will enable the authority to buy services in a more flexible manner from a group of providers in line with the needs and wishes of service users or groups of service users.

- 3.3 The framework agreement, which will be for housing and/or personal care, will incorporate both existing and potential business commissioned either solely or jointly from the Adult and Community Directorate, Supporting People, Primary Care Trust and other agencies. As a condition of their acceptance on the framework, providers must agree that individual service users with a Personal Budget may also, should they wish to, utilise the framework to commission their services via referral to the Adult and Community Directorate. Services commissioned via this route will be subject to the same terms and conditions of agreement – thus protecting individuals from being charged higher fees as “private” clients.
- 3.4 Once the framework is in place the Directorate can then call-off individual services after consultation with the residents of the affected schemes. We will be working to produce a timetable to re-tender existing services and suitable providers will be invited to submit a tender which will be evaluated in conjunction with the service users before a decision is made as to who will be awarded the support contract for that scheme. This will give individuals and groups much more control over how their support is delivered and by whom.
- 3.5 The proposal is that the framework agreement will initially be let for 2 years with the option to extend for a further 3 years; although the length of individual contracts may vary depending on the needs and wishes of service users. This is preferred because the personalisation agenda is developing rapidly and there may be significant changes affecting commissioning and contracting decisions over the next couple of years that will require the Authority to retain flexibility in order to respond to new assumptions about how support services are commissioned and delivered.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Government document Valuing People Now – a three-year strategy for people with learning disabilities (2009) - reaffirms the four guiding principles set out in Valuing People (2001) that people with learning disabilities: have the same human rights as anyone else, independent living, control of decisions made about their lives, and inclusion in all aspects of community. These rights are already embedded within contracted services for community support.
- 4.2 New Horizons: A Shared Vision for Mental Health (2009) sets out a cross government programme of action to improve the mental health and well being of the population and the quality and accessibility of services for people with poor mental health. The report builds on the National Service Framework for Mental Health and emphasises the role of personalised services and the involvement and empowerment of service users.
- 4.3 Over the next 5 years, personalisation will substantially affect the way in which people receive services. National indicator 130 has a target requiring 30% of

people in receipt of community care to be purchasing them using an individual budget or direct payment by 1ST April 2011. Thus the Council must ensure it has flexible contracting arrangements in place to manage this.

4.4 **Social Inclusion:** These services offer a range of care and support to vulnerable people in the Borough and by promoting social inclusion have a positive impact on a person's self-worth and mental health.

4.5 **Sustainability:** The provision of effective support enables people to remain in their homes thus contributing to sustainable local communities.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The services affected by this tender will be existing services; although the framework will be available to commission new business if necessary. Therefore the estimated cost is based on current expenditure and does not include any additional monies.

5.2 The proposed framework will cover those elements currently supported through Adult Social Care and Supporting People and therefore the full cost of the tender (assuming it is in place for the full 5 year period) is **estimated** to be **£16,990,574**.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

There is an expectation that providers should support joint working to create individual paths to employment in line with the goals of *Valuing Employment Now* by encouraging service users to think about work, get the advice they need and to move closer to the labour market.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The provision of high quality effective community support enables individuals to remain in their own home and to maintain and improve their health outcomes

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 **Financial Risk:** The tender process will be conducted in line with value for

money principles and be compliant with market testing. Tenderers will be given an indicative price against which to submit their pricing schedule and this will be agreed in consultation with Finance Managers. The recommendations made to Members in respect of the award of the contract will be in line with the MEAT principle (Most Economically Advantageous Tender).

- 7.2 **Contractual Risk:** The terms of the contract against which the tender is being conducted have been checked and agreed by the Legal Services Department and are designed to protect the Council's interests. At this stage we are inviting providers to join a list through which they may or may not be successful in obtaining contracts; the framework does not offer any provider a guarantee of work

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 The provision of community based housing and personal care is a council service that is delivered to some of the most vulnerable and socially excluded members of the community and the development of this framework agreement will enable the Authority to meet its duties to promote inclusion and fair access to services for all local residents.

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

- 9.1 None