

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 27 March 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Request to extend contracts for Personal Care and Housing Related Support

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To request that Executive Board suspend relevant procurement standing orders and approve the extension of existing contracts as listed in Appendix 1.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- i) **agrees to an extension of the contracts listed in Appendix 1 to the dates specified.**
- ii) **acting under procurement standing order 1.8.4 (c) agrees to waive standing orders 2.0.1 to 2.14 for learning disability and mental health services and sheltered scheme contracts whose values exceed £1,000,000.**
- iii) **acting under procurement standing order 1.8.4 (c) agrees to waive standing orders 3.1.1 to 3.7 for the service user involvement and adult placement contracts whose values are in excess of £173,943 but not exceeding £1,000,000.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Learning Disability and Mental Health Services

Halton has established a range of accommodation based services which support vulnerable adults and older people in the Borough. This approach enables individuals to maintain their independence in their own home and avoid or delay the need for residential care.

A separate report to the Executive Board on Residential and Nursing care has highlighted the market conditions and pressures being experienced by this sector of the care market. Accommodation based services perform a key function in managing these pressures by preventing the escalation of needs for as long as possible.

These services are subject to an on-going programme of review by the Directorate's Quality Assurance Team while registered care services are also inspected by the Care Quality Commission. This offers reassurance that good quality cost effective care and support is being provided.

A number of these service contracts are due to expire – details are included in Appendix 1. These services are highly individualised and a waiver of standing orders is requested as compliance is not practicable as requirements can only be met through a limited number of suppliers. Approval is sought to extend these contracts to 31st October 2015.

This extension period is preferred on the following basis:

- Commissioners will continue to work with providers to identify efficiencies in the delivery of services whilst ensuring assessed needs of vulnerable adults and older people are being met.
- The extension period offers market stability for current providers encouraging them to invest in staff training to continue to develop their services to continue to offer quality support. .
- Procurement of the Adult Learning Disability and Mental Health Framework contract will take place within the proposed extension period and there is an opportunity to incorporate some of these services within this process to minimise costs by conducting one tender process.

3.2 Sheltered Accommodation Services

Halton has 15 sheltered housing schemes providing 520 units of accommodation by 9 provider organisations.

Halton also funds community alarm provision to 114 older people by 4 provider organisations.

It was the intention to complete a strategic review of sheltered housing in 2013/14 but this has been delayed due to the prioritisation of homelessness services and the domiciliary care tender.

The review will be undertaken in 2014/15, but the initial position statement which has been produced highlights current provision delivers value for money, preventative services.

Approval is sought to extend the contracts for a further 12 months to allow the completion of the strategic review and negotiations with support providers.

3.3 Service User Involvement Service

The service user involvement project works with service users to provide opportunities for people to develop skills and confidence to become involved within their services and communities.

A review of the service in 2013 highlighted the service works with a core group of service users who regularly attend a number of established forums and there is the desire to develop those forums into fully service user led groups.

Approval is sought to extend the contract for up to 12 months to enable consultation and to further skill up service users to facilitate and administer the existing forums.

4.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR THE EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS

4.1 Value for Money

The alternative to contract extension is a mass procurement process compliant with standing orders. This would result in clear financial detriment to the Council in terms of cost and time of conducting an open tender process.

An extension to existing will enable proposed efficiencies for 2014/15 to be realised and this work will continue to identify further opportunities for remodelling. An open tender process will halt these negotiations and expose the Council to risk of higher costs.

During the extension period, the feasibility of bringing a number of these contracts within the Adult Learning Disability and Mental Health Framework contract to conduct one cost effective procurement process.

4.2 Transparency

Contracts awarded are recorded in the Council's contract register accessible via the internet and will be updated to reflect the extension awarded. This ensures that external agencies have the opportunity to examine contractual outcomes.

4.3 Propriety and Security

The extension of the contracts referred to in this report will be compliant with Halton Borough Council's procurement standing orders. Compliance with anti-corruption practices will be adhered to and any of the contracts within the subject of this report will be terminated if there is any occurrence of corruption by any of the organisations or their staff.

4.4 **Accountability**

The Operational Director for Commissioning and Complex Care has responsibility for all contracts.

The contracts will be performance managed and service standards monitored by the Community Directorate's Commissioners and Quality Assurance Team.

4.5 **Position of the contract under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006**

These are Part B exempt services under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and do not need to be advertised in the OJEU. When a contract is awarded OJEU must be notified within 48 days.

5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 These accommodation based services will enable the authority to meet its statutory duties when the Care Bill 2013 is enacted.

6.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Funding for these services is contained within the existing Communities Directorate budget. Over the last year Commissioners have worked closely with provider agencies to identify efficiencies and achieved lower rates for both existing and new business. This approach will continue during the extension period.

7.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

A skilled local workforce can deter young people from choosing distant residential college placements as well as support a successful return to the Borough for those that do.

7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There is an expectation that providers should support joint working to create individual paths to employment by encouraging service users to think about work, get the advice they need and to move closer to the labour market.

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The provision of high quality, effective community support enables vulnerable people to remain in their own home and to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing outcomes.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

Services delivered under these contracts must comply with Halton's Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures. Support is provided to individuals to enable them to stay safe in their own home.

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 Extension of these contracts will ensure continuity of support to vulnerable adults and older people.

All contracts are monitored in accordance with the level of risk identified. In the event of non-compliance the contract will be reviewed immediately and necessary remedial action initiated.

Financial risk is minimised as services will be delivered within existing budgets.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 The provision of housing support and personal care is delivered to some of the most vulnerable and socially excluded members of the community. These contracts support the Authority in meeting its duties to promote inclusion and fair access to services for all local residents.

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

None.

APPENDIX 1

Contracts for housing related support and personal care

Services	Providers	Annual Contract Value	Extension Period
ALD & MH Supported Accommodation	Alternative Futures Community Integrated Care Creative Support European Lifestyles Making Space Sanctuary Carr Gomm	£654,350	31 st October 2015
Private adult placement	Private adult placement	£1,859	31 st October 2015
ALD & OP Adult Placement	PSS United Response	£91,301	31 st October 2015
Older People's Sheltered Schemes	Abbeyfield Anchor Trust English Churches Housing Group Guinness Trust Halton Housing Trust Hanover Housing Pentecostal Riverside Housing Your Housing Group	£321,732	31 st March 2015
Older People's Community Alarm Services	English Churches Housing Group Plus Dane Riverside Housing Your Housing Group	£38,700	31 st March 2015
Service User Involvement	SHAP	£48,450	31 st March 2015