

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 11 February 2016
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Adult Social Services
PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Adult Social Care Contracts
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval from Executive Board to extend the current services provided by external providers in the voluntary sector for a one year period to from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017, and which requires a waiver to Procurement Standing Orders.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) agree to use Procurement Standing Orders 1.8.3 (e) and (f) to waive Procurement Standing Orders 4.1 and 4.1(a) in respect of the current Halton Carers Centre, MIND, and Healthwatch contracts; and**
- 2) agree to an extension of the existing contracts listed in Appendix 1 for a period of up to 1 year from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The authority currently has contracts in place that are due to expire on the 31st March 2016 with the following services;

- MIND; A day service for individuals with mental health issues that is jointly funded with NHS Halton CCG.
- Halton Carers Centre; A universal service providing a wide range of information, support and advice for both adult and young carers that is jointly funded with NHS Halton CCG.
- Halton Healthwatch; A service to provide an independent local voice for all aspects of adult and children's health and social care within Halton.

3.2 Following the implementation of the Care Act in April 2015, during 2015/16 the local authority has been working with these service providers with a view to achieving; service specification re-design

based on the achievement of outcomes, better quality and value for money, and improved integration within an evolving system of integrated health and social care services

4.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS

4.1 Value for money

Value for money will continue to be assured through regular contract monitoring by the commissioner and Quality Assurance Team

4.2 Transparency

Contracts will be recorded in the Council's Contract Register accessible via the internet together with the publication of all spend in excess of £500.00.

4.3 Propriety and Scrutiny

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 organisations or their staff.

4.4 Accountability

The contracts will be performance managed and service standards monitored by commissioners and the contracts team.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Section 3 of the Care Act places a duty on local authorities to promote integration with health provision where it would; promote the well-being of adults with needs and carers in its area; or contribute to the prevention of the development of needs in adults / carers; or improve the quality of care for adults / carers, provided.

5.2 Care Act guidance also encourages local authorities to move to outcomes based commissioning. Instead of simply commissioning 'units of provision to meet a specified need (eg hours of care provided)' they should move towards specifying outcomes for the individual which 'emphasise prevention, enablement, ways of reducing social isolation and the promotion of independence. The guidance cautions however that this move should not have the result of disadvantaging or excluding 'smaller, specialist, voluntary sector and community-based providers.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The total financial cost to the authority of the contracts listed in Appendix 1 is £304,822. A further £378,943 is provided to support the joint commissioning of these services by NHS Halton CCG.

6.2 The cost of the recommended extension to contracts can be met within existing budget allocations.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Healthwatch Halton provides services across all age groups including children and young people.

7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Voluntary sector organisations rely significantly on volunteer time to deliver services. The organisations provide training and placement opportunities for volunteers, increasing their skills and employability.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

All of the services listed make an important contribution to improving the health of people in Halton.

7.4 A Safer Halton

Healthwatch Halton's role is to act as a voice for local residents regarding the quality of local health and social care services. The safeguarding of local residents in the care of health and social services is a high priority for Healthwatch Halton.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 These contracts individually fall below the current EU threshold of £589,148 for Contracts for Social and Specific Services, and subsequently the risk of challenge will be negligible.

8.2 The Quality Assurance Team will monitor the grants and ensure the Council and Halton residents receive value for money.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 None identified

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

None.

Appendix 1

Service	Budget 2014/15	Funding source
MIND (Mental Health Day Services)	£57,890	HBC Base budget, £37,890 NHS Halton CCG £20,000
Halton Carers Centre	£491,160	HBC Base Budget, £132,217 NHS Halton CCG, £358,943
Halton Healthwatch	£134,715	HBC Base Budget