

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 15 June 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director, Adults

PORTFOLIO: Adult Social Care Portfolio

SUBJECT: Halton Sensory Service

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4 (v) and 1.14.5 of Parts 2 and 3 of Procurement Standing Orders to extend the Halton Sensory Service from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1) **note the contents of the report; and**
- 2) **approve a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4 (v) and 1.14.5 of Parts 2 and 3 of Procurement Standing Orders to extend the Halton Sensory Service from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 A procurement process was undertaken in 2018 for an integrated sensory service for Halton, to support individuals with a sight and/or hearing impairment.

Prior to 2018 the Council commissioned separate services for sensory impairment and hearing impairment, but it was considered an integrated approach to include the Council's vision service would prevent any potential duplication of provision, provide better outcomes for individuals and realise efficiencies by streamlining services and reducing overheads.

3.2 A 3 year contract with the option to extend for a further 1 plus 1 year period was awarded to Vision Support who deliver the Halton Sensory Service in partnership with Deafness Resource Centre.

3.3 In July 2022 the final available extension was awarded to Vision Support and the contract is due to end in June 2023.

3.4 Over the pandemic, the Sensory Service continued to be provided but in a different way. It is considered that a review is required to inform the service delivery model and future commissioning. A one year extension is requested to allow this work to be undertaken to ensure the service continues to meet the needs of people with a sensory impairment in Halton.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The current contract value is £101,853 and Vision Support has not received any inflationary increases since the contract was awarded in July 2018.

Vision Support has advised that due to the length of time they have been delivering the service together with inflation which has caused a rise in wages and general running costs, they are currently operating at a loss. Vision Support has requested an increase in contract value of 10% for service delivery and 20% to cover the increase in rent for the local delivery hub, which will take the contract value for 2023/24 to £121,589. As an inflationary increase of 10% has been agreed for social care services for 2023/24, the increase in contract value for the Halton Sensory Service contract value the increase is considered to be reasonable and still represents value for money.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

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

The service will provide individuals with the required support to maximise opportunities to access training and employment.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The service supports people to minimise the risks of harm, and access relevant services to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

This service safeguards vulnerable people by providing support to maximise independence.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The contract 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 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None identified.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 The support provider will be required to demonstrate they embrace and comply with the Equality Act.