

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Graham Gibbens,
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

15/00089b

For publication or exempt – please state

Key decision

Affects all divisions and spend of over £1m

Subject: Older Persons Residential and Nursing Care Contract 2016 and final Guide Prices for 2016-17

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I:

a) **AGREE** the actual guide prices for these categories of care as follows:

Residential:	£373.51
Residential High:	£455.45
Nursing:	£504.73
Nursing High:	£530.28

b) **AWARD** contracts to the successful tenderers identified in the Exempt appendix

c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other suitable nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The decision meets the objectives of 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)':

- Older and vulnerable residents are safe and supported with choices to live independently
- Families and carers of vulnerable and older people have access to the advice, information and support they need
- Older and vulnerable residents feel socially included
- Residents have greater choice and control over the health and social care they receive

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 10 March 2016.

Ms C Holden, Head of Commissioning for Accommodation Solutions, was in attendance for this item.

1. The Chairman asked Members if, in debating this item, they wished to refer to the information set out in the exempt appendix, F4. Members confirmed that they did not wish to refer to this information and discussion of this item therefore took place in open session.
2. Ms Holden introduced the report and explained that the procurement process had taken longer than expected as additional work had needed to be undertaken in relation to the National Living Wage, but a guide price and contract award was now being presented for the committee's comment, prior to a formal decision being taken by the Cabinet Member. The outcome of the tender evaluation process and the names of the successful tenderers to whom it was proposed that contracts be awarded were set out in the exempt appendix to the report.

3. Ms Holden and Mr Lobban responded to comments and questions from Members, as follows:-

- a) surprise was expressed at the limited affect that the introduction of the national living wage in April 2016 appeared to have had on prices. Mr Lobban confirmed that the national living wage had been subject to a detailed analysis which had shown that it had added an annual pressure of approximately £6m. He reminded the committee, however, that the national living wage would increase further each year, so it was important that the County Council establish a good mechanism by which this ongoing increase could be managed, year on year; and
- b) in response to a query about care placement training, Ms Holden confirmed that all placement managers would undergo suitable training on the new process during March and April 2016.

4. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, to:

- a) agree the guide prices for Older Persons' Residential and Nursing Care as follows:
Residential: £373.51
Residential High: £455.45
Nursing: £504.73
Nursing High: £530.28
- b) award contracts to the successful tenderers, identified in the exempt appendix to the report; and
- c) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other suitable nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision,
be endorsed.

The matter was previously discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee in September 2015 when agreement of the tender process was received.

Consultation was undertaken with residential and nursing care home providers before and throughout the procurement process. A series of consultation events were held in July 2015, followed by a tender workshop in October 2015. Questions and queries from providers were addressed via the Kent Business Portal

Any alternatives considered:

Not establishing a Guide Price. However, the market has asked for one and the establishment of a Guide Price helps provide clarity to individuals when choosing care as to the price the KCC usually expects to pay for residential and nursing care.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None



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signed

24 MARCH 2016

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date