
By: Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director, Families and Social Care

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

Subject: **Supporting Independence Service**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary. The report outlines the background of the Supporting Independence Service. It proposes a four year contract award (with the option to extend for a further year), following a full and formal open tender process in line with KCC guidance.

Recommendations: The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to grant delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Families and Social Care (or other nominated Officer) to proceed with the procurement process and award of call off contracts for the Supporting Independence Service.

Introduction

1. (1) On the 23 November 2011, a paper went to Families and Social Care (FSC) Directorate Management Team to outline the commissioning strategy and procurement options for the Supporting Independence Service.

(2) The commissioning strategy brings together three existing contracts to form one new service under the umbrella of the Supporting Independence Service to ensure that KCC achieves best value and supports personalisation and social inclusion. The three contracts are:

- Community Support Services (all client groups)
- Supported Living for People with a Learning Disability
- Supported Accommodation for People with Mental Health Needs

(3) Kent County Council has used community support to provide assistance to people living in the community, to enable them to undertake practical tasks such as budgeting, cooking as well as undertaking activities in the community. Both supported living and supported accommodation has been used to support independence and promote social inclusion.

Financial Implications

2. (1) It is the Council's intention to award a four year contract with an option to extend for a further year. The funding for this service remains within the current FSC budget lines.

(2) The Supporting Independence Service has an estimated annual expenditure of £16 million, made up as follows:

- Supported Living Learning Disability £8.8 million
- Community Support Services (all client groups) £5.5 million
- Supported Accommodation Mental Health £1.7 million

The estimated value of the 4 year contract is £64 million with an extension of one year it is £80 million.

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

3. (1) The proposed decision links with the priorities within Bold Steps for Kent more specifically:

- Priority 1 Improve how we procure and commission services
- Priority 2 Support the transformation of Health and Social Care in Kent
- Priority 15 Improve services for the most vulnerable people in Kent

Legal Implications

4. (1) The contract for services has been developed following advice from Legal services to ensure that it is robust and meets current law.

Equality Impact Assessments

5. (1) Equality Impact assessments were undertaken, these identified the need for an internal action plan. Further Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as appropriate.

Risk and Business Continuity Management

6. (1) If a member decision is not reached the risks include that Kent County Council will not achieve best value as the market has not been tested. There is also a risk that the market will not see KCC as being open and transparent.

Consultation and Communication

7. (1) Consultation with service users, stakeholders and providers have been undertaken through:

- Surveys published through the South East Business Portal,
- Questionnaires completed through face to face interviews and telephone,
- A provider meeting was held on 10 August 2011.

(2) Further consultation on the specification will be undertaken prior to the commencement of the tendering process.

Sustainability and Rural Proofing Implications

8. (1) The Supporting Independence Service will offer all service users the opportunity to remain in the community by providing appropriate, local and timely support in order to maintain wellbeing and social inclusion.

Are there any Personnel or Health and Safety Issues which are relevant?

9. (1) None.

Alternatives and Options

10. (1) The alternative of continuing with the current arrangements was considered but this does not meet The Spending the Council's Money policy.

Conclusions

11. (1) The provision of the Supporting Independence Service will contribute to outcome measures based on the concept of wellbeing, these include:

- Improved health and emotional wellbeing
- Improved levels of independence
- Improved quality of life
- Making a positive contribution
- Exercising choice and control
- Economic wellbeing
- Personal dignity

Recommendations

12. (1) The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to grant delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Families and Social Care (or other nominated Officer) to proceed with the procurement process and award of call off contracts for the Supporting Independence Service.

Background Documents

None

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