

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee  
**DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Adults & Community  
**SUBJECT:** Waiver to extend Voluntary Sector Contracts  
**WARD(S)** Borough-Wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request the suspension of the relevant procurement standing orders 3.1 to 3.7 and 4.1 to 4.3, under the exceptional circumstances set out in this report, which places a requirement on the Council to tender or obtain quotes for contracts set up with external providers in the voluntary and independent sector.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION THAT:**

- (1) In light of the exceptional circumstances set out below, for the purpose of standing order 1.8.2, procurement standing orders 3.1 to 3.7 be waived on this occasion in order to extend existing voluntary sector contracts for the provision of health and well being services set out in appendix 1, in order to ensure continuous care; and as the contracts offer value for money and are performing well in meeting the needs of people who use these services;**
- (2) in light of the exceptional circumstances set out in this report, for the purpose of standing order 1.8.2, procurement standing orders 4.1 to 4.3 be waived on this occasion in order to extend existing voluntary sector contracts for the provision of health and well being services set out in appendix 2, in order to ensure continuous care; and as the contracts offer value for money and are performing well in meeting the needs of people who use these services; and**
- (3) the Strategic Director, Adults and Community be authorised, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Health, to enter into contracts, listed in appendix 1 and 2, for one year from April 2011 to the end of March 2012, with an option to extend on an annual basis, subject to budgetary provision and good performance in meeting local need, for a further two years up to the end of March 2013.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Significant work has been carried out to support the development of the

voluntary sector through our commissioning and contracting arrangements over the previous three years. Voluntary sector services are now commissioned to deliver outcomes set out in the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy. All services have been reviewed and remodeled in order to improve outcomes and deliver efficiencies.

- 3.2 Due to the uncertainty around a number of grant funding streams and the late confirmation of budgets, approval is sought waive procurement standing orders 3.1 to 3.7 and 4.1 to 4.3, in order for the Strategic Director Adults and Community, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Health, to extend the voluntary sector contracts set out in appendix 1 and 2 for a period of one year, with the option to extend for a further two years; subject to budgetary provision and evidence that the services continue to meet a local health and well being needs.

#### 4.0 **BUSINESS CASE FOR THE CONTRACT EXTENSION**

##### 4.1 **Value for money and Competition**

Services are being delivered by local, established voluntary sector organisations with an extensive knowledge and understanding of Halton and the needs of its local community. As a result it would not make commercial sense to invite tenders as costs could outweigh any potential savings.

Commissioners will review these services annually to ensure desired outcomes continue to be achieved and that the method of service delivery remains the most cost effective option for the Council.

##### 4.2 **Transparency**

In order to ensure transparency it is proposed that all services will continue to submit performance reports to named lead commissioning officers. The frequency and detail will be agreed by the relevant Commissioning Manager as part of the contract compliance process.

##### 4.3 **Propriety and Security**

The extension of these contracts complies with Halton Borough Council's standing orders and procurement. Compliance with anti corruption practices will be adhered to and the contract will be terminated if any instances of corruption by any organization or its staff members occur. The contract specifications will set out requirements in respect to minimum standards for the delivery of care and will include comprehensive standards relating to Adult safeguarding. The cost of entering into these contracts will be contained within existing available budgetary provision.

##### 4.4 **Accountability**

All services will be performance managed through the named commissioning managers. Performance will be scrutinised by the appropriate Local Implementation Teams. The process and paperwork is open to the annual audit process, internal audit and access by other regulatory and enforcement bodies.

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

As this is for care services, these contracts are largely exempt from the 2006 Regulations so there is no need to advertise for expressions of interest in the official Journal.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Financial implications of contracts listed in Appendix 1 of £485,811 will be met within existing budgetary provision.
- 5.2 Financial implications of contracts listed in Appendix 2 of £16,000 will be met within existing budgetary provision.
- 5.3 One change to note is that the Council has transferred responsibility for the provision of sexual health services to Halton & St Helens PCT and therefore no longer directly holds any contracts with the voluntary sector for HIV/Aids services.

## **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None at present.

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

### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None

### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

A number of the providers help to support and enable vulnerable service users to access education, training and employment opportunities.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

Each of the services covered in this report is expected to clearly demonstrate the impact their service has on the health and well-being of service users in Halton. This includes performance towards healthier lifestyles, better access to services and improved mental health outcomes.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

Contracts within this report provide information to support people to access a range of health and well being services. This supports targets set out in Halton's Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy and links to satisfaction with services and overall perception of the area in which people live.

### **6.5 Halton's urban renewal**

None

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 Voluntary sector services are now commissioned to meet local needs identified in Halton's Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy. This has resulted in the reconfiguration of a number of voluntary sector services in order to meet identified local needs. Contract values can be met from within

existing budget provision and risk is minimised by limiting award on contract on an annual basis.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 No specific issues – reference to equality and diversity issues will be detailed in any contracts awarded to voluntary agencies.

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

None

**Appendix 1**

Contracts whose value is more than £50,000 but less than £1,000,000.

Name of provider & details of service	Lead Officer	Contract start date	Contract end date	Contract Amount (11/12)	Comments	Funding source
Halton Speak Out	Liz Gladwyn	01/04/11	31/03/12	£103,259	Service continues to meet identified outcomes including: Supporting adults with learning disabilities to self advocate and through peer advocacy. Promoting inclusion and rights of people with learning disabilities in Halton. Informing development of Council services. Supporting Transformation of Adult Social Care.	Base budget
MIND	Lindsay Smith	01/04/11	31/03/12	£37,890	Service continues to meet identified outcomes including:	Base Budget

					<p>Development of voluntary befriending scheme for people with mental health problems</p> <p>Delivery of a range of confidence building and personal development programmes</p>	
Richmond Fellowship	Lindsay Smith	01/04/11	31/03/12	£37,000	<p>Service continues to meet identified outcomes including:</p> <p>Securing employment opportunities for people with severe mental health problems</p> <p>Securing volunteering and education/training opportunities for people with severe mental health problems</p>	Base Budget
Crossroads – Support Service for Carers	Mark Holt	01/04/11	31/03/12	£66,666	<p>Service continues to meet identified outcomes including:</p> <p>Supporting carers to remain independent in their own</p>	Base budget

					homes Support vulnerable people to avoid admission in hospital or residential care To signpost vulnerable people and their carers to get the help and support they need to remain as part of their local community.	
Age UK – Information and advocacy service	Mark Holt	01/04/11	31/03/12	£81,079	Service continues to meet identified outcomes including: Vital information for local older people to access services Support to access services in the borough Access to low-level advocacy that allows people to get their voice heard	Base Budget
Age UK – Practical support service	Mark Holt	01/04/11	31/03/12	£86,227	Service continues to meet identified outcomes including: Delivering home safety checks linked to the falls pathway that allows older	Base Budget

					<p>people to stay independent in their own homes.</p> <p>Access to a register of traders that local older people can access to get work completed in their properties.</p> <p>Linking people to fire and crime safety equipment and information to improve people's property and wellbeing.</p>	
Red Cross – Care at Home	Mark Holt	01/04/11	31/03/12	£73,690	<p>Service continues to meet identified outcomes including:</p> <p>Supporting people to return home from hospital at the earliest point by offering up to eight weeks of support to people at home. This can include shopping, picking up pension or medication etc.</p>	Base Budget



## Appendix 2

Contracts whose value is less than £50,000.

Name of provider & details of service	Lead Officer	Contract start date	Contract end date	Contract Amount (11/12)	Comments	Funding source
Making Space	Lindsay Smith	01/04/11	31/03/12	£16,000	Service continues to meet identified outcomes including: Providing individual support to carers of people with severe mental health problems Facilitate regular carers support groups Developing a range of information and self help material for carers	Base Budget