

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 12 March 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
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 and voluntary sector providers for either a one year period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 or a two year period from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2017, as identified in appendix 1 and 2. This requires a waiver to Procurement Standing Orders. Each contract will be for 12 months only, but where relevant will offer a twelve month extension if contract objectives are met.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) **Agree to using Procurement Standing Orders 1.8.3 (d), (e) and (f) to waive Procurement Standing Order 4.1 in respect of voluntary sector contracts with a value not exceeding £172,514, as listed in Appendix 1.**
- 2) **Agree to an extension of existing voluntary sector contracts for a period of 2 years from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2017 for all contracts listed in appendix 1.**
- 3) **Agree to an extension of existing voluntary sector contracts for a period of 1 year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 for all contracts listed in appendix 2.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In Halton there has always been a vibrant voluntary sector and that has been maintained despite the difficult financial landscape they are operating within. The services included within this report are delivered to support the prevention agenda that it is pivotal to the strategic aims of Adult Social Care. These services have played a vital part in helping us to main a level of prevention within the borough and are also well placed to deliver important outcomes linked to the Care Act. It is clear that if the unique and dedicated

services were lost there would be a significant gap in service delivery that would not be filled elsewhere.

- 3.2 The contracts outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 represent a number of voluntary organisations who deliver a valuable service across health and social care. It is proposed that the Council continues to fund these services.
- 3.3 Expected changes through the Social Care bill and plans to develop the Better Care Fund have also necessitated a strategic approach which encompasses all of the named organisations. Each of these services will be reviewed in line with the required aims and objectives of the prevention agenda.
- 3.4 Each of the services listed in the two appendices will, from April 1st 2015, be managed through the Better Care Fund. This will ensure that the services are jointly funded and managed. Therefore they will realise improved efficiency in monitoring and overall performance.

4.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS

4.1 Value for money

The financial contribution from the council is supported by the contribution from local volunteers and as such the services listed in Appendix 1 and 2 provide good value for money. The Council's contribution to all services will be subject to further review in 2015/6.

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 In anticipation of the implementation of the Care Act in April 2015, during 2014/15, the local authority has been engaged with the service providers listed in appendix 1 with a view to achieving; service 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
- 5.2 On 17th January 2008, the Department of Health issued a Local Authority Circular entitled 'Transforming Social Care'. The circular set out information to support transformation of social care and at the heart of this change is the personalisation agenda. As we develop community provision within prevention services we will need to consider the implications of personalisation for the whole community.
- 5.3 Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS, July 2010, also sets out plans to radically transform the NHS. This includes development of Clinical Commissioning Groups that means local clinicians having more of a say in how they commission services. This has had a major impact on the voluntary sector as they have had to adapt to a whole new way of working and prepare for commissioning changes in the sector.
- 5.4 Locally, to support these National documents, the Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy identifies the need to support Older People to maintain their independence and a high quality of life. The Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy Mid-term review, The Carers Commissioning Strategy and the Joint Commissioning Strategy for People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities all outline the current position and needs of different service areas in the borough. These documents look at the need for a range of support services to help people achieve the best outcomes for them including information, transport, advocacy and health promotion.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The total financial implication of the contracts listed in Appendix 1 is £360,559 per year.
- 6.2 The contracts have been reviewed during the course of 2014/15 to ensure that service objectives are in line with the new Health and Wellbeing and Clinical Commissioning Group Priorities and that services continue to provide value for money.
- 6.3 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**

None identified.

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**

The services provided by Age UK Mid Mersey and Red Cross deliver direct support from people in their own home or as they are being discharged from hospital. Information and Advocacy is a vital mainstay of helping people to remain healthy and independent in their own homes.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

The prevention agenda is well supported by the voluntary sector and Age UK Mid Mersey offer practical help and information to ensure that older people's homes are safe and secure. In addition Red Cross offer practical support for people when they leave hospital.

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 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 To receive funding a voluntary sector organisation has to ensure that that acceptable equality and diversity policies are in place.

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

None.

Appendix 1 – two year extension

Name of provider & details of service	Contract start date	Contract end date	Budget 2015/16	Rationale
Vision Support	01/04/15	31/03/17	£42,268 per annum (HBC Base budget £25,000 / Halton CCG £17,268)	This service offers training and specialist equipment for people with a visual impairment. It supports in excess of 300 people and this number is rising. Vision Support are the only provider of its kind in the borough and are successfully meeting agreed outputs and outcomes.
Red Cross – Home from Hospital	01/04/15	31/03/17	£67,152 per annum HBC 50% £33,576 CCG 50% £33,576	This service supports people for a short period during the difficult transition from Hospital to home. The Red Cross support is an important part of discharge management within the hospital and offers its service to help alleviate pressure on beds as well as offering practical support to people when they are at their most vulnerable. Practical help is time-limited, and includes, assistance with food preparation and shopping, ensuring a warm home, assistance with confidence building, outdoor mobility and befriending services, after a period of illness The service is currently being delivered at a very competitive unit cost of just £9.84 per hour.
Halton Speak Out	01/04/15	31/03/17	£73,439 per annum HBC Base Budget	This service is a vital part of the development of engagement with people with a learning disability in the borough. The service has recently been reviewed and the service has had a 10% reduction in annual funding implemented from April 1 st 2015.

Appendix 2 – one year extension

Name of provider & details of service	Contract start date	Contract end date	Budget 2015/16	Funding source
Age UK Mid Mersey – Information Service	01/04/15	31/03/16	£78,000 per annum HBC 50% £39,000 CCG 50% £39,000	Due to the implementation of the new Care Act this service is best placed to be redesigned to build on its current successes and develop in new areas to address the requirements of the Act.
Age UK Mid Mersey – Practical Tasks	01/04/15	31/03/16	£61,000 per annum HBC 50% £30,500 CCG 50% £30,500	Like the service above the practical tasks will offer significant opportunities for redesign in line with the Care Act. This will be linked specifically to the well-being agenda and will maintain its ethos of delivering vital prevention solutions for older people. Practical tasks include; identify and overcome potential hazards in the home, for example, ways to avoid falls, home safety, crime and bogus callers, carbon monoxide poisoning etc. They also give practical help about fitting smoke alarms, providing energy efficient light bulbs, torches, UV security pens. In addition, AGE UK can give information on how to gain further assistance and benefits advice.

Carers Trust (formerly Crossroads) End of Life service	01/04/15	31/03/16	£37,553 per annum (CCG funding)	This service delivers carers respite for people who are supporting someone who is at end of life. The service has been reviewed and a new specification that covers each of the three services listed in this table is being developed. This new specification will be better suited to identify the needs of carers and offer flexible support to help maintain them in this important role.
Carers Trust (formerly Crossroads) Carers Respite, Health	01/04/15	31/03/16	£29,265 per annum (CCG funding)	This service delivers carers respite for people who are supporting someone who is unable to leave their home. The service has been reviewed and a new specification that covers each of the three services listed in this table is being developed. This new specification will be better suited to identify the needs of carers and offer flexible support to help maintain them in this important role.
Carers Trust (formerly Crossroads) Carers respite social care	01/04/15	31/03/16	£40,000 per annum (CCG funding)	This service offers a weekly respite for people who are caring for someone with a limiting illness. This and the two services above will be moved to be part of the Better Care Fund from April 1 st and will be managed through this agreed process.