

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 2 July 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Supported Accommodation (Vulnerable Adults)
Tender
WARD(S) All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the granting of a Direct Award for the delivery of community based supported accommodation services from the 1st November 2015 to the 31st March 2016. To approve the procurement of the supported accommodation services for vulnerable adults (Learning Disabilities, Autism, Physical Disabilities and Mental Health) during 2015 with a contract start date of the 1st April 2016.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) notes the content of the paper;**
- 2) supports the recommendation to grant a Direct Award to supported accommodation providers (listed in paragraph 3.3) from 1st November 2015 to 31st March 2016; and**
- 3) approves the procurement of the vulnerable adult supported accommodation services framework during 2015 with a contract start date of the 1st April 2016. It is proposed that the contract length is 3 years with an additional 2 year extension based on quality of service delivery.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton Borough Council is responsible for commissioning services to support vulnerable adults to live independently within the Halton community. The aim is to improve health and social care outcomes and improve life opportunities for individuals with Learning Disabilities, Autism, Physical Disabilities and/or a severe or enduring Mental Health condition (vulnerable adults).

3.2 Halton Borough Council provides a range of services and support for individuals with additional needs/vulnerability. Individuals are supported to live in their communities using a range of services to maximise independence.

Supported tenancies either single accommodation or shared accommodation for individuals with a tenancy agreement and receiving shared support and bespoke support packages to meet their needs within their home. Other services are based on a 'shared lives' model a person lives as part of a family receiving support. Some individuals require only low level support to enable them to effectively live in their homes and access their communities.

3.3 There are currently 55* services providing support to 163* vulnerable adults across the borough. Halton Borough Council contracts with 13* providers to deliver supported accommodation.

Provider	Number of services	Number of service users (including voids)
Alternatives Future Group	7	14 (1)
CIC	11	31
Creative Support	8	21 (4)
Embrace	15	32 (2)
Future Directions	3	6 (5)
Options for Supported Living	1	1
Sanctuary	1	8
Making Space	2	20
M-Power	1	2
1 st Choice Support	1	5
Focus on Care	1	9
PSS	2	1
United Response	2	1

(*excludes Halton Supported Housing Network)

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The current contracts for the supported accommodation framework are due to expire on the 31st October 2015. The 5 month Direct Award will enable the remodelling of the service and a contract start date of the 1st April 2016.

The current annual contract value for each provider including the proposed Direct Award cost for a period of 5 months is listed in the table below.

Provider	Current Cost (per annum)	Direct Award Cost 1st Nov 2015 to 31st March 2016
Alternatives Future Group	£1,646,577	£686,073
CIC	£1,497,798	£624,082

Creative Support	£687,455	£286,439
Embrace	£1,675,382	£698,075
Future Directions	£465,466	£193,944
Options for Supported Living	£198,925	£82,885
Sanctuary	£73,171	£30,488
Making Space	£108,849	£45,353
M-Power	£18753 (*2)	£7,813
1 st Choice Support	£61,793.94	£25,747
Focus on Care	£61,910.94	£25,795
PSS	£31,959.92	£13,316
United Response	£41,087.01	£17,119
Total	£6,569,128	£2,737,129

** The above figures are subject to change based on assessed needs.*

*(*2) Service is funded through ILF and Community Care funding (£70,000 represents a reflection of the cost)*

- 4.2 The current model of service delivery is based on providers being dispersed across the Borough. The remodelling of the services will create a cluster of houses in a geographical area to enable a provider to concentrate its resources.

During the tender process providers will be able to bid for a number of clusters, yet if the clusters are in both Runcorn and Widnes no increase in fees will be agreed to compensate the provider for any travel or toll costs incurred when the new bridge comes into service.

- 4.3 The cluster modelling will enable providers to implement assistive technology systems within services with a responsive staffing approach across the cluster.

A key part of the tender process will be to understand how providers will implement assistive technology within services, reducing the levels of staffing where appropriate, ensuring risk management plans are implemented.

- 4.4 The new contracts will have a performance framework implemented; ensuring outcomes for individuals are reviewed on a quarterly basis. The performance framework will also enable increases or decreases in support levels to be considered taking into account the 'just enough support' model to provide a foundation of promoting independence and improving life opportunities for individuals.

- 4.5 Care management teams have continued to review supported accommodation services in preparation for the procurement exercise. While support hours have been increased in some areas, in the main there have been decreases across most service areas, representing significant savings and ensuring the hours tendered are meeting the identified needs of the individuals within the

supported accommodation services.

4.6 An open tender process will provide an opportunity to stimulate the market and review the financial model of supported accommodation within the borough. There is an opportunity during the procurement exercise to remodel the services to achieve efficiencies across the period of the contract.

4.7 The existing framework agreement will continue to enable business continuity during the procurement process.

5.0 PROPOSAL

5.1 It is proposed that a Direct Award of a contract to 31st March, 2016 be given to the current providers list in section 3.3, using a 'Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice' (VEAT). The contracting authorities must give sufficient information as to the justification for direct award of a contract without the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) advertising and observe a minimum 10 day standstill period before the contract is awarded.

5.2 If the proposal to provide a Direct Award to the providers (section 3.3) of a contract from 1st November 2015 to the 31st March 2016 is agreed, the procurement of a longer term contract will implemented from 1st April 2016.

5.3 If the proposal is not agreed, or if there is a significant challenge as part of the VEAT process, the procurement timescale will be amended and implemented with immediate effect.

5.4 To complete procurement exercise for a framework agreement for supported accommodation services with 9 clusters with an average contract value of £700,000 (this is subject to change). The proposed contract term is 3 years with an additional 2 years extension based on quality and service delivery. The contract start date will be the 1st April 2016.

5.5 The contracts awarded will be for a cluster. In circumstances where a provider defaults on a contract due to quality issues or safeguarding concerns then the entire cluster will be defaulted against, rather than a single service. If a provider terminates a contract this also will be a cluster approach rather than a single house/service.

The proposal will ensure providers are motivated to ensure a high quality of care and support is delivered across a range of services regardless of complexity of individuals accessing the service.

5.6 Once a cluster has been established any new accommodation services that are created within the geographical area during the term of the contract, will be tendered through a closed tender

process for providers within that area.

- 5.7 TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection Of Employment) regulations will apply to the supported accommodation services. TUPE will enable service continuity and also ensure the established relationships between the service user and the support staff is maintained; minimising disruption.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The method of procurement will comply with the Public Contract Regulations, 2015 and the Council's own Procurement Standing Orders and will utilise a VEAT Direct Award as described in section 5.1.

7.0 FINANCIAL/RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The financial implications are allocated within the Communities Directorate budget and highlighted in section 4.1.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Appropriate accommodation for some young people through the transition planning stage is essential, with a particular focus on young people in care.

8.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Halton's adult accommodation model works in partnership with other agencies to promote employment and skills, working towards promoting the independence of individuals.

8.3 A Healthy Halton

Individuals with additional needs/vulnerability can have disproportionate health related issues or life-long conditions that impact on individuals. The current and future modelling will continue to promote health equalities.

8.4 A Safer Halton

All providers will continue to safeguard individuals and will be ensure that individuals are aware how to stay safe, how to report incidents and to promote safe community inclusion.

8.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

n/a

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 9.1 The modelling and service delivery is based on assessed needs and risks identified through care management assessments.

9.2 Financial risks continue to be monitored as part of the annual review process by care management and Quality Assurance Teams. The open tender process will provide an opportunity for cost efficiencies through competition of providers. During the term of the contract, once the new cluster model has been implemented and embedded in practice further efficiencies can be identified and delivered.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 Equality and Diversity issues have been considered, the models of service delivery proposed will ensure personalised care and support to meet the identified needs of the vulnerable adults of Halton.

11.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

11.1 To ensure business continuity and maintain support and care for vulnerable adults requiring accommodation related support to live within the community.

12.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- To continue with the current model post April 2016.
- To continue with the current providers and pricing framework post April 2016.
- To award contracts from the 1st November 2015.

13.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

13.1 1 November 2015.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.