

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 1st October 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director People and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Supported Accommodation (Vulnerable Adults)
Tender (relates to Minute 15 - 2nd July 2015)

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Executive Board approval to offer Direct Award contracts for the delivery of community based supported accommodation services from the 31st March 2016 to 30th September 2016. In addition, Executive Board are requested to endorse the revised procurement timetable for the supported accommodation services for vulnerable adults (Learning Disabilities, Autism, Physical Disabilities and Mental Health) during this period.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) the Board supports the recommendation to extend the current '*Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice*' (VEAT) Notice and Direct Award to supported accommodation providers (listed in paragraph 5.2) from 1st April 2016 to 30th September 2016; and
- 2) the Board confirms its continuing approval of the procurement of the vulnerable adult supported accommodation services framework with a contract start date no later than 1st October 2016. The contract will be for a period of three years with an additional 1 year extension based on the quality of service delivery.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 On 2nd July 2015 Executive board endorsed a Direct Award of a contract to 13 supported accommodation providers from 1 November 2015 to 31 March 2016. Board also approved the procurement of the vulnerable adult supported accommodation services framework during 2015 with a contract start date of 1 April 2016, and a contract length of three years with an additional two year extension based on quality of service delivery.

- 3.2 Board also noted the remodelling of the service to move from dispersed provision across the Borough to clustered services based on a geographic zone. This would enable providers to concentrate resources, utilise assistive technology to manage risk and offer better value for money. TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings - Protection of employment) regulations apply to these services.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The procurement process has been implemented and the Invitation to Tender was issued on 13th August 2015. Providers had an opportunity to submit questions to clarify the process/specification. In this instance a number of questions were received which raised concerns relating to the pricing structure. Tenderers felt they would be unable to submit prices that gave sufficient consideration to variations in the size of zones and the higher costs arising from TUPE in some of these zones.

- 4.2 Managers reviewed the concerns raised and the need for the market to be confident it can deliver quality, sustainable services which offer the Council best value. Following discussion with Procurement it was decided that the approach needed to be modified and the tender process was aborted on 8th September.

- 4.3 Work is being prioritised to review and revise the specification and pricing model. A new procurement process will then commence. However given the delay and the complexity of the service remodelling it will be difficult for successful tenderers to mobilise the new contracts by 1st April 2016 and there is a high risk of vulnerable adults experiencing disruption in their support.

5.0 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 It is proposed to comply with EU Procurement regulations by extending the current '*Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice*' (VEAT) and give Direct Award contracts up to 30th September 2016 to the providers listed in 5.2. The justification for the extension will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

5.2 The cost of the extension for each provider is listed below:

Provider	Direct Award Cost 1st April 2016 to 30th September 2016
Alternative Futures Group	£823,288
Community Integrated Care	£748,899
Creative support	£343,727
Embrace	£837,691
Future Directions	£232,733
Options for supported Living	£99,462
Sanctuary	£36,585
Making Space	£54,425
M-Power	£9,376
1 st Choice Support	£30,897
Focus on Care	£30,955
PSS	£15,980
United Response	£20,543
Total	£3,284,563

The above figures are subject to change based on assessed needs

5.3 Subject to approval of an extension, procurement of a longer term contract (3 years plus 1 year extension subject to service quality) will be implemented.

5.4 The contracts awarded will be on the same cluster model previously reported to Board. An achievable mobilisation period will be set ensuring safe transfer of care and support and continuity of services for vulnerable adults.

5.5 If the proposal is not agreed, or if there is a significant challenge as part of the VEAT process, the procurement will be implemented immediately with a shortened mobilisation period.

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 5.1.

7.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The financial implications are highlighted in 5.2 and are allocated within the Directorate's budget.

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 greater independence of individuals.
- 8.3 **A Healthy Halton**
Individuals with additional needs or vulnerability can have disproportionate health related issues or life-long conditions. 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**
None identified
- 9.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**
- 9.1 The extension of the contracts to 30th September 2016 will allow sufficient time to complete the successful procurement and implementation of the new service model. This will ensure market sustainability whilst minimising risk relating to service continuity for vulnerable adults.
- 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 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**
None.