

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 19 January 2017  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People  
**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 a one year period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, as identified in appendix 1. This requires a waiver to Procurement Standing Orders.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board agree to using Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.3 to waive Procurement Standing Order 3.1 in respect of contracts below the EU threshold, as listed in Appendix 1.**

## 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 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 Each of the services listed in the appendix will, from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017, 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.

3.4 As part of this new 12 month agreement a strategic review will take

place of the current funding. This will aim to consider if the services we commission clearly meet the strategic objectives of the council, do they offer value for money, service user feedback and are there alternative providers that could be procured. As a result we will seek to go to formal tender in April 2018 on each contract listed in appendix 1.

#### 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 provide good value for money. The Council's contribution to all services will be subject to further review in 2017/8.

##### 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 On 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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 £345,019 for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

6.2 The contract performances have been reviewed during the course of 2016/17 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

### 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, Halton Speak Out 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 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

To support the Council objectives in relation to adults social care.

11.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

An alternative option would be to carry out a procurement exercise and this is the preferred option for next year. This will allow enough time to complete a full service review of the services that are currently delivered as part of the voluntary sector contracts.

12.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

1<sup>st</sup> April 2017

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

None.

## Appendix 1 – Contract extensions

Name of provider & details of service	Contract start date	Contract end date	Budget 2017/18	Funding	Rationale
Age UK Mid Mersey – Information Service	01/04/17	31/03/18	£66,300	Local Authority – Voluntary sector budget	The service supports older people through signposting, information provision and casework. It works specifically in identifying low –level support for people to help them prevent any health deterioration.
Red Cross – Home from Hospital	01/04/17	31/03/18	£57,069	Local Authority – Voluntary sector budget	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. The service is currently being delivered at a very competitive unit cost of just £9.84 per hour.
Age UK Mid Mersey – Practical Tasks	01/04/17	31/03/18	£51,850	Local Authority – Voluntary sector budget	The service delivers home environment checks and low-level maintenance to support people remaining independent in their own homes. This service links directly into the local falls service and offers a valuable support to reducing the level of falls in the borough.
Carers Trust (formerly Crossroads) End of Life service and carers respite service	01/04/17	31/03/18	£91,800	Joint Local Authority / Better Care Fund	This service delivers carers respite for people who are supporting someone who is at end of life or someone who is unable to leave their own home. The service has been reviewed and is delivering well; however work is required to review the overall carers respite provision in the borough and for this reason only a one year extension will be sort.
Halton Speak Out	01/04/17	31/03/18	£78,000	Joint Local Authority / Better Care Fund	This service delivers service user led support to people with a learning disability in the borough. It focuses on engagement and support planning ensuring that the services people receive are person centred.