

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 19 March 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Health and Community

SUBJECT: Request to extend contracts for Adult Mental Health Residential Care Services

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that the existing contracts for residential care at Leahurst and Woodcrofts be extended to no later than 31st March 2010.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) in the exceptional circumstances set out below, for the purpose of standing order 1.6, procurement standing orders 3.1 to 3.9 be waived on this occasion on the basis that the residential services offered by Hilton Residential Homes Ltd and Woodcrofts Residential Homes Ltd should be reviewed in light of the changing needs of people with severe and enduring mental health problems, the proposed amendments to residential care contracts aligning funding scales to levels of dependency. In addition, the existing contract for these services be extended to 31st March 2010 in line with the contracted rate previously agreed by Board, plus an inflationary uplift of 2.5%, to allow a full review to take place; and**
- (2) a report outlining the current and future residential needs for people with severe and enduring mental health mental health problems be presented to the Health Policy and Performance Board by the end of 2009.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The focus of all mental health services is recovery and social inclusion for people with mental health problems, by supporting the individual to live as independent a life as possible, empowering them to take control of their lives and helping to develop or maintain the life skills necessary to do so.
- 3.2 Halton Borough Council is performing well in supporting adults with mental health problems to live in their own home rather than being admitted to

long-term residential care. However, there are still two residential homes in the Borough providing care to people with mental health problems. At times, residential care is the most appropriate place for people to recover from a significant episode of mental illness but with the improvements in mental health treatment and care in the community, it should no longer be seen as a long-term support solution. The people currently residing in these homes should be offered choices in how they live and provided with the necessary support to retain or regain their independent living skills, if at all possible.

- 3.3 Leahurst has 26 places whilst Woodcrofts has 21, both provide services for adults with mental health problems and are owned by two different providers. At present, Leahurst has 13 Halton Borough Council residents and Woodcrofts has 12 Halton Borough Council residents. CSCi completed unannounced inspections during 2007 and both homes were rated as 'Good'.
- 3.4 Fees are paid under the existing residential contract rate agreed by Executive Board Sub Committee in June 2005 plus annual inflation uplifts. The current fee level in respect of Leahurst and Woodcrofts is £378.23.
- 3.5 A review of the current and future needs of those people with mental health needs living in residential care will be undertaken this year and a report detailing the outcomes of the review will be submitted to the Health Policy and Performance Board by the end of 2009.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In the document Journey to Recovery (2001) the Government states that people must be supported in settings of their own choosing, have access to community resources including housing, education, work, friendships – or whatever *they* think is critical to their own recovery and working to recovery based on service user and carer aspirations is a real possibility for the majority.

5.0 FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The agreement of Board is sought to extend the current residential contract for both homes to 31st March 2010. Fees from 1st April 2009 will be paid at the current rate plus an inflationary uplift of 2.5%.
- 5.2 The cost of providing these services is met by the Community Care budget. The review of residential care services is not expected to add any costs and in the medium to long term, as people become more independent, there may be reduced support costs.
- 5.3 The estimated value of the 12 month extensions for the residential cares

services, based on current rates of occupancy are as follows:

Residential Home	Estimated annual cost
Leahurst	£159,980
Woodcrofts	£144,068

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None identified

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified

6.3 A Healthy Halton

These services offer a range of care and support to people with mental health problems that have a positive impact on a person's sense of self worth and mental health.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified

7.0 Risk Analysis

7.1 The risk to vulnerable people is reduced through contracting providers who have demonstrated that they deliver good quality services for people with mental health needs.

8.0 Equality and Diversity

8.1 Agencies working under contract to the Council are expected to comply with the Council's policies relating to Ethnicity and Cultural Diversity as well as promoting social inclusion of some of the most disadvantaged people in the Borough.

8.2 Equality and Diversity will also form part of the social worker's review for each person residing in the two care homes

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100B OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972.

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the act.