

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 23 February 2017
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Voluntary Sector Contracts
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval from Executive Board to award contracts to Healthwatch Halton and MIND Halton for a one year period from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018, and to Halton Carers Centre for a period of 4 months from 1st April 2017 to 31st July 2017, requiring a waiver to Procurement Standing Orders.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) **Agree to use Procurement Standing Order 1.14.3 (d), where compliance with Standing Orders would result in the Council having to forego a clear financial or commercial benefit; and**
- 2) **Agree to awarding a contract to Healthwatch Halton and MIND Halton for a one year period from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 and to Halton Carers Centre for a period of 4 months from 1st April 2017 to 31st July 2017.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The authority currently has contracts in place that are due to expire on the 31st March 2017 with the following services;

- Halton Healthwatch; A service to provide an independent local voice for all aspects of adult and children's health and social care within Halton.
- MIND Halton; A day service for individuals with mental health issues that is jointly funded with NHS Halton CCG.
- Halton Carers Centre; A universal service providing a wide range of information, support and advice for both adult and young carers that is jointly funded with NHS Halton CCG.

3.2 Halton Healthwatch

In addition to Halton Healthwatch, the authority also has a duty under the National Health Service Act 2006 to commission an independent advocacy service for those people wishing to make a complaint about the NHS. Currently this service is provided by the Carers Federation and is commissioned by Liverpool City Council on behalf of the 9 Merseyside & Cheshire local authorities. This contract is due to expire in March 2018. Halton therefore is currently exploring options with neighbouring authorities to commission a combined Healthwatch & Independent Advocacy service from April 2018.

3.3 MIND Halton

NHS Halton CCG are looking to develop a local consortium/network of 3rd sector providers, which will include MIND, who could help deliver both the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) target and support the new triage referral system into the 5 Boroughs Partnership. On completion of this work, appropriate changes to the MIND service specification will be made to reflect the changes in delivery required.

3.4 Halton Carers Centre

NHS Halton CCG has expressed a preference to commission this service, and will therefore be undertaking a tender and procurement exercise.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Continuing these services ensures that both the Authority and NHS Halton CCG are compliant with their statutory duties

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The total financial cost to the authority of the contracts listed in Appendix 1 is £216,677. A further £139,647 is provided to support the joint commissioning of these services by NHS Halton CCG.

5.2 The cost of these contracts can be met within existing budget allocations.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Halton Carers Centre provides services that support young carers in the Borough.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

All of these organisations provide training and placement opportunities for volunteers, increasing their skills and employability.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

All of the services listed make an important contribution to improving the health of people in Halton.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Healthwatch Halton's role is to act as a voice for local residents regarding the quality of local health and social care services. The safeguarding of local residents in the care of health and social services is a high priority for Healthwatch Halton.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 These contracts individually fall below the current EU threshold of £589,148 for Contracts for Social and Specific Services, and subsequently the risk of challenge will be negligible.

7.2 The Quality Assurance Team will continue to monitor these services and ensure the Council and Halton residents receive value for money.

8.0 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

Executive Board approval is required to award these contracts.

9.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Retendering these contracts, which would result in the Council foregoing a clear financial benefit

10.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

1st April 2017

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Recognising, Supporting & Valuing Carers in Halton, 2016 - 2019	Runcorn Town Hall	Steve Eastwood

APPENDIX 1

Service	Budget 2017/18	Funding source
MIND (Mental Health Day Services)	£57,890	HBC Base budget, £37,890 NHS Halton CCG £20,000
Halton Carers Centre	£163,719	HBC Base Budget, £44,072 NHS Halton CCG, £119,647
Halton Healthwatch	£134,715	HBC Base Budget