

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: SOCIAL WORK – MAIN TENDERING ACTIVITY 2009
From: HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 25 FEBRUARY 2009	Ref: DOD/EOC	

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Committee of three main areas of tendering activity scheduled in the current year and to seek approval to proceed with these tenders.

2. Background

- 2.1. Housing and Social Work has a framework in place for contracting and monitoring the performance of independent sector care providers. Procurement advice is that contracts duration should not exceed 3 to 4 years prior to being re-tendered to ensure best value for the Council.
- 2.2. Whilst re-tendering activity can be at odds with Social Work objectives of seeking to ensure consistency of service delivery to vulnerable people, compliance with European Union procurement requirements mean that social care services above a threshold value of £132k should be exposed to the open market.

3. Main Contracts due for renewal in 2009

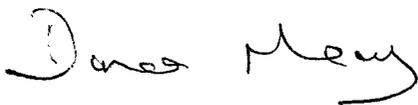
- 3.1. There are three major social work contracts terminating and due for renewal in 2009. Where contracting approaches are being recommended, these have been jointly decided upon, with corporate Procurement and Legal Services. The three main tenders are for:
- stairlifts, hoists and specialist plumbing (c£3.5m annual value)
 - supported living services (c£26m annual value)
 - home support (c£4m annual value).
- 3.2. The provision of and maintenance of stairlifts, hoists and specialist plumbing contact terminates in June 2009. The existing contracts were previously awarded to two providers. Due to the specialist elements of these contracts and to the range of values in each area of activity it is proposed that three separate tenders will be undertaken, each being undertaken using an open tendering process.

- 3.3. Supported Living is currently provided to over 500 people across the Council area. The service supports people who may be vulnerable due to enduring ill health or disabilities, including those with the highest level of need in the council's area. It enables people to exercise choice and control over the support they may need to enjoy good quality lives in their own homes and communities. In North Lanarkshire supported living services are delivered by 15 providers. The current contractual arrangements terminate on 31 March 2009. Social Work is seeking to increase the provider base to between 15-20 providers in order to improve service options. To manage the volume of interest shown in this tendering opportunity a two stage restricted tendering procedure is proposed. The first stage is an open pre-qualification exercise which will be assessed, followed by a restricted tendering exercise for those providers who best meet the first stage criteria. It is then intended to construct a framework agreement for the provision of supported living services for 3-4 years. Using the framework model will allow Social Work to purchase support from all providers on an as required basis.
- 3.4. Housing and Social Work is currently engaged in a best value review of its in-house and purchased home support services. The outcome from that exercise is scheduled to report in May 2009. Current independent sector home support contracts will terminate on 31 October 2009. Proposed tendering arrangements for purchased services will be informed by the outcome of that review. Advice from Procurement and Legal services will inform the tendering process to be adopted.

4. Recommendations

Committee is asked to:

- (i) Approve the tendering processes outlined in 3.1 and 3.2; and
- (ii) Note the contracting and tendering position in relation to 3.3.



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Head of Social Work Development
29 January 2009

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