

North Lanarkshire Council

Report

Adult Health and Social Care Committee

approval noting

Ref RMCG

Date 18/02/20

Framework Agreements for Self Directed Services and Support at Home

From Ross McGuffie, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care

Email Ross.McGuffie@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk **Telephone** 01698 858143

Executive Summary

The Self Directed Support and Self Directed Support Care at Home Framework Agreements are due to end on 31 March 2020 and 31 May 2020 respectively. This report seeks approval from the Adult Social Work Committee to commence an open 'style' procurement exercise for both framework agreements to cover a 3 year period.

As the current contracts terminate in March and May respectively, an extension of nine months is required to execute the safe procurement of the new contracts.

During the 3 year period it is proposed that the successful provider organisations on the Self Directed Support Care at Home Framework will fully engage with the principles of self directed support and individual budgets.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Adult Health and Social Care Committee:

- (1) Notes and approves the content of this report;
 - (2) Approve the extension of both contracts for a period of nine months to the end of November 2020 to enable the procurement processes to be implemented in line with Council policy
 - (3) Remits the report to the IJB for approval of the direction of travel and the actions required to implement the procurement process as described;
 - (4) Seeks a progress report on the implementation plan in June 2020 for the Adult Health and Social Care Committee.
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The Plan for North Lanarkshire

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| Priority | Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities |
| Ambition statement | (12) Ensure our residents are able to achieve, maintain, and recover their independence through appropriate supports at home and in their communities |

1. Background

- 1.1 North Lanarkshire Social Work Service commissions a wide range of social care and support services from independent sector providers. The commissioning and contracting approaches are wide ranging and fully support the EU treaty principles of transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination, proportionality and mutual recognition. In addition, the Council's approach is fully compliant with Scottish Government guidance and best practice in relation to social care procurement.
- 1.2 Priority for formal procurement activity is given to larger value and more complex service purchasing.
- 1.3 At the moment, non-residential based support for adults and children is commissioned through two framework agreements; the Self Directed Support (SDS) Framework Agreement and the Self Directed Support (SDS) Care at Home Framework Agreement. This allows for individual choice of service provider to be exercised within an arrangement where provider organisations have been subject to scrutiny and due diligence by Council officers.
- 1.4 The SDS Framework ends on 31st March 2020. The SDS Care at Home Framework ends on 31st May 2020 with the option for a 12 month extension.
- 1.5 The current position of separate framework agreements reflects historical contractual arrangements where support to adults, children and young people in their own homes and the wider community was commissioned separately through home support and supported living approaches.
- 1.6 Previous committee reports in relation to the redesign of home support have indicated the intention to move to a model of support underpinned by the principles of self-directed support.

2. Report

- 2.1 The ultimate aim of the Health and Social Care Service, in relation to SDS and SDS Care at Home framework agreements, is to commission a single framework agreement for adults requiring non-residential support underpinned by self directed support principles and utilising individual budgets to maximise choice and control. For independent sector home support providers this approach is a marked change to the current 'time and task' service model and poses significant practical, operational, financial and cultural challenges.

- 2.2 During the current SDS Care at Home framework agreement, significant development work has taken place with provider organisations to facilitate a change to a more outcome focussed approach to support. However, it is acknowledged that considerable work remains to assist the existing providers to reach a position where a SDS approach to service provision is achievable.
- 2.3 The In House home support is currently undergoing a major redesign of service centralising all management and administration functions. A second phase will be preparing the in-house service to deliver support on an individual budget basis moving away from a time and task approach.
- 2.4 With the above in mind, it is proposed that a procurement exercise is undertaken which will seek to commission, on an open 'style' tender basis, two concurrent 3 year framework agreements. The framework agreements will mirror current arrangements in terms of an SDS Framework Agreement and a separate SDS Care at Home Framework Agreement.
- 2.5 In light of experience, the Health and Social Care Service has developed a maturity in identifying the key features of community based support services which will enable the principles of self directed support and procurement best practice to be applied. The qualifying criteria for the SDS Care at Home Framework Agreement will include a commitment from providers to identify how they propose to develop their service over the term of the framework to fully embrace self directed support and individual budgets.
- 2.7 The SDS Framework Agreement will be based on the current arrangements which will facilitate an efficient process and ensure the principles of Best Value are adhered to.
- 2.8 The estimated value of the Self Directed Support Framework Agreement is £150m. The estimated value of the Self Directed Support Care at Home Framework is £50m. These amounts includes provision for Direct Payment arrangements.
- 2.9 The proposal has been discussed with and has the approval of the Council's procurement and legal services.

3. Equality and Diversity

- 3.1 **Fairer Scotland Duty**
No impact under the Fairer Scotland Duty is expected.
- 3.2 **Equality Impact Assessment**
An Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken at this stage.

4. Implications

- 4.1 **Financial Impact**
The funding for these services remains within relevant council and IJB arrangements. Ensuring contractual compliance will ensure robust evaluations around Best Value and establish optimum service delivery.
- 4.2 **HR/Policy/Legislative Impact**
There are no expected HR/Policy/Legislative impacts

4.3 **Environmental Impact**

There are no expected environmental impacts

4.4 **Risk Impact**

Risks in terms of the capacity of the independent sector to fully engage with a new model of support will be mitigated by robust contract monitoring arrangements and regular operational meetings with the relevant providers.

5. **Measures of success**

5.1 Framework Agreements support the delivery of Council and Service priorities

5.2 Appointment of provider organisations who have suitable experience and capability to meet the requirements of the Framework Agreement.

5.3 Framework Agreements are compliant with GCSOs and procurement legislation.

5.4 Best Value is both demonstrated and achieved.

6. **Supporting Documents**

No appendices.



Ross McGuffie
Chief Officer
Health & Social Care North Lanarkshire