

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES – LEARNING DISABILITY: SUPPORTED LIVING FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval from the Implementation Executive to allow DCS to undertake a procurement process to secure a range of appropriately qualified and experienced service providers to establish outcome-focused supported living arrangements for individuals with a learning disability.

Background

2. DCS currently contracts for a range of residential care and supported living arrangements with external service providers within Wiltshire.
3. The Governments 'Valuing People Now'¹ document stresses the importance to ensure all individuals with a learning disability have access to good quality accommodation and support that enables people to live as independently as possible.
4. Commissioners in Wiltshire are committed to developing a strategic approach to improve the commissioning of support services for people with learning disabilities. The key strategic priority is to increase choice and promote a wide range of independent living options;
5. DCS is required to achieve financial savings within its Learning Disability commissioning strategic plans.

Main Considerations for the Implementation Executive

6. There is heavy reliance on residential care as a living option with 402 people with LD living in residential care. This places Wiltshire in the UK top quartile of local Authorities with high rates of residential care. We intend to address this by offering realistic, responsive commissioning options.
7. There are currently people with learning disabilities living in a range of settings – in particular residential accommodation. A number of these people have the potential to live more independently or have indicated a wish to do so. The Council will be looking to facilitate the move of seventy people from residential care to more independent environments over the next two years. To achieve this, the Council needs to work in partnership with support providers who have the skills and expertise to maintain people with complex needs in the community. The partnership will include existing providers where appropriate and specialist providers drawn into Wiltshire to increase options for people with learning disabilities.
8. The Council [and the PCT through the S28a transfer] currently spends the following (per annum) in Wiltshire on the following sectors of adult learning disability services².

¹ 'Valuing People Now', Department of Health (2008)

² Value is based on 2008 – 2009 costs

	Council	PCT
Residential Care	£14.991m	£7.361m
Supported Living	£4.274m	£0.624m
Totals	£19.265m	£7.985m

The undertaking of a procurement process to achieve Framework Agreements will maximise the opportunity for the Council to secure 'Best Value' in respect of service costs and individual needs (and aspirations).

9. This policy direction will also support the achievement of a range of considerations including:
 - 9.1 The number of individuals with mobility needs is high and therefore require future services which are fit-for-purpose;
 - 9.2 Wiltshire has many rural communities and the Council wishes to offer support to individuals who choose to live in a rural area;
 - 9.3 There is a requirement for a greater range of services for people on the autistic spectrum;
 - 9.4 There are people with behaviour that challenges services, who, with skilled, flexible support could be living a more diverse person centred lifestyle. There are approximately 286 people whose behaviour challenges current services;
 - 9.5 Services are required which will support an increasing (and older) population of people with a learning disability (and other associated needs, such as mental health problems);
 - 9.6 The Council will wish to consider the options for those individuals currently resident 'out-of-county' and look to provide the opportunity for a potential return to Wiltshire.
10. The Government and local policy to support individuals utilise more appropriate and independence-based accommodation services will support the requirement to achieve financial efficiencies.
11. The establishment of Framework Agreements with service providers is supported by the following considerations:
 - 11.1 The business management recommendations of the incoming Council Business Management Programme (BMP);
 - 11.2 The Department of Health is advocating the establishment and use of Framework Agreements as the key contractual vehicle by which to work with the provider market under the 'Transforming Social Care' agenda³;
 - 11.3 Other local authorities are purchasing equivalent service arrangements under this arrangement (best practice);
 - 11.4 The application of Framework Agreements allow for the individual purchasing of service levels based on individual needs and circumstances;
 - 11.5 That Framework Agreements provide a contractual relationship basis by which the Council can manage and ensure quality.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

12. There is no environmental impact relating to this proposal.

³ As presented to Cabinet, 'Transforming Social Care', Sue Redmond (22 April 2008) and 'Putting People First', Department of Health (2007)

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

13. Issues relating to equality and diversity are a key consideration in the commissioning and contracting of any new service (including application of the Impact Assessment policy).

Risk Assessment

14. To ensure the success of the procurement exercise, officers have undertaken an appropriate risk assessment which looks to ensure that key issues – such as maintaining market stability and stakeholder involvement – are maintained.

Financial Implications

15. There are no direct financial implications (commitment) of undertaking and completing this procurement. Financial commitment will be generated as and when individuals are offered the opportunity to move into new tenancy arrangements. This will be achieved – where appropriate – through the application of recognised cost calculator tools.
16. It is understood that this proposed new arrangement will support the generation of proposed financial savings.
17. As service values are achieved against an analysis of individual needs; associated tasks; and planned outcomes, it is not possible to identify the potential total value associated with these potential agreements. Effective financial management will be achieved through the application and review of the aforementioned cost calculator tools and through budget management.

Legal Implications

18. The proposed framework contract arrangements will be let in accordance with European legislation (Official Journal of the European Union, Part B).
19. The terms and conditions of the contract will be agreed and approved by the Council's Legal team.

Options Considered

20. Maintaining existing arrangements: This is not appropriate due to:
 - 19.1 The inappropriate 'balance' of residential and supported living services;
 - 19.2 The need to modernise service requirements in line with 'Valuing People Now' and the 'Transformation' agenda.
21. Block contracts: This not appropriate due to:
 - 21.1. The Government expectation that services for individuals will be based on individual needs; and therefore costs ('Putting People First'⁴).

⁴ 'Putting People First', Department of Health (2007)

Conclusions

22. The procurement of service providers under Framework Agreements will maximise the opportunity to:
- 22.1 Achieve the Government objectives for individuals with a learning disability (as detailed within 'Valuing People Now');
 - 22.2 Provide a framework by which the objectives of the Governments 'Transformation' agenda can be achieved;
 - 22.3 For the Council to re-position its role within Wiltshire as a strategic purchaser of accommodation services (which addresses the balance of residential care and supported living services);
 - 22.4 Achieve equitable costs for individually outcome-based services which maximise independence.
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Background Papers: "Transforming Social Care", Sue Redmond (22 April 2008)

Appendices: None