

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 work with the Council to provide community based 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. The Council have developed a Joint Commissioning Strategy with NHS Wiltshire. This Strategy highlights a key strategic priority is to increase choice and promote a wide range of independent living options;
5. DCS must deliver all services in a cost effective way and service developments arising from the Joint Commissioning strategy must reflect the financial framework of the Council and NHS Wiltshire.

Main Considerations for the Implementation Executive

6. There is heavy reliance on residential care as a living option with 425 people with Learning Disabilities in residential care. This places Wiltshire in the UK top quartile of local Authorities with high rates of residential care.
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. Approximately 230 people have stated they would like to move into more independent forms of accommodation. 79 are either living with parents or carers, a number of whom are aged over 60. 90 are currently living in residential care, some in high cost placements. The service needs to be able to support these people to achieve their move to more independent ways of living.
8. To achieve this, the Council needs to work in partnership with social care 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.

¹ ‘Valuing People Now’, Department of Health (2008)

9. This activity will improve the Council's performance against National Indicator NI 145 (Number of people with a learning disability living in settled accommodation);
10. This policy direction will also support the achievement of a range of key issues including:
 - 10.1 The number of individuals with mobility needs is high and therefore require future services which are fit-for-purpose;
 - 10.2 Wiltshire has many rural communities and the Council wishes to offer support to individuals who choose to live in a rural area;
 - 10.3 There is a requirement for a greater range of services for people on the autistic spectrum;
 - 10.4 There are people with challenging behaviour that current services within the County struggle to support, that typically could result in them being placed out of county. The Council can work with providers and individuals to ensure their needs are better met within local community settings. There are approximately 449 people whose behaviour challenges current services;
 - 10.5 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);
 - 10.6 The Council will wish to consider the options for those individuals currently resident 'out-of-county'. Many of these individuals would benefit from living nearer to their families.
11. The establishment of Framework Agreements with service providers is supported by the following considerations:
 - 11.1 National driver for better engagement with providers around the strategic commissioning of services
 - 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' agenda²;
 - 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.
 - 11.6 The business management recommendations of the incoming Council Business Management Programme (BMP)

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

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

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

13. This proposals will allow people with learning disabilities an opportunity to participate within and contribute to their local communities. This proposal supports the Council's the strategic direction of " lives not services".

² As presented to Cabinet, 'Transforming Social Care', Sue Redmond (22 April 2008) and 'Putting People First', Department of Health (2007)

14. People will be provided far greater choice about how and where they wish to live

Risk Assessment

15. 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

16. 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 the recognised 'Fair Pricing Tool'.

Legal Implications

17. The proposed framework contract arrangements will be let in accordance with European legislation (Official Journal of the European Union, Part B).

18. The terms and conditions of the contract will be agreed and approved by the Council's Legal team and all future procurement arrangements will meet the requirements of the new Contract Regulations and Procurement Strategy.

Options Considered

19. 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.

20. Block contracts: This not appropriate due to:

- 20.1. The Government expectation that services for individuals will be based on individual needs; and therefore costs ('Putting People First'³).

Conclusions

21. The procurement of service providers under Framework Agreements will maximise the opportunity to:

- 21.1 Achieve the Government objectives for individuals with a learning disability (as detailed within 'Valuing People Now');
- 21.2 Provide a framework by which the objectives of the Governments 'Transformation' agenda can be achieved;
- 21.3 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);
- 21.4 Achieve equitable costs for individually outcome-based services which maximise independence.
- 21.5 To support the Council's performance objectives (NI 145).

³ 'Putting People First', Department of Health (2007)

Background Papers: “Transforming Social Care”, Sue Redmond (22 April 2008)

Appendices: None