

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR ADULT CARER SUPPORT SERVICE
DATE: 10 APRIL 2014
RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

A report is scheduled to be presented to the 15 April 2014 meeting of Cabinet, for the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care to approve the award of the contract for Adult Carer Support Services to tenderer A. The service, if approved, will commence on 1st September for a period of 3 years and provide a significant increase in the identification of carers alongside the provision of advice and support, while retaining some of the smaller vital and valuable services currently operating in some areas of the City. The tender has been in response to a Commissioning Framework for Carers developed in 2013, which identified the need to improve and expand the identification of carers in Southampton. The procurement process for this contract commenced in December 2013 with final submissions on 6th February 2014. Submissions have been evaluated in line with SCC procurement requirements.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

1. On behalf of the Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) and Southampton City Council (SCC) a review of current support for carers was undertaken. The information gathered was collated into a Commissioning Framework which has set out both the SCCG and SCC intentions to improve the support for carers in Southampton. The Commissioning Framework for Carers was developed through consultation and approved through both SCC and SCCG management structures (SMT and DMT). The Commissioning Framework covers a broad range of support services, of which this service will form a part of ongoing and future improvements in Southampton.
2. Southampton has a large number of carers, over 20,000 identified through the 2011 Census, of which only a small proportion receive carers allowance or support from Local Authority services. Population estimates (used by Royal College of GPs and Carers Trust) estimate around 12% of the population are carers. This equates to around 36,000 for Southampton, yet the very limited data we have shows we have contact with only a very small number of carers. For those we are in contact with the local Carers Survey reflects the majority of carers report good quality of life, satisfaction with social services and feel included in discussions about the person they care for. However, a small number say they feel isolated and have little information on available support. Local feedback (Carers Together events) also tells us that there needs to be an improvement in the identification of carers, increased advocacy services alongside improved information and access points.

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3. The Integrated Commissioning Unit's intention is to substantially improve the number of carers who are identified, provided with advice and where appropriate signposted onto relevant services. Carers are a valuable part of the overall health and social care system. The new service will ensure appropriate information, advice and support is available to assist them to maintain their own health and in doing so, continue their role as a carer.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial

4. The proposed new service will be jointly funded by the Council and Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group. The funding will be held by the Council under section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006. The S256 agreement will run concurrently with the proposed Carers contract.
5. The Health and Adult Social Care Portfolio currently holds a recurring revenue budget which funds a variety of contracted support services for adult carers. The Council's contribution to the proposed contract will be funded from within, and limited to, this existing resource.

Property / Other

6. There are no property resource implications.

Legal

7. The design and the running of this procurement has been in accordance with the authority's Contract Procedure and Financial Procedure Rules
8. The contract supports the Local Authority to support the carers through identification, advice, support and signposting. These are not requirements set out in legislation but this service will support the important role of valuing carers as set out in the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000, the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act and the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995.

Policy

9. The report is in line with the Policy Framework.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

None

Further Information Available From:

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