

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR AN ADULT CARER SERVICE AND A YOUNG CARER SERVICE.		
DATE OF DECISION:	15 APRIL 2014		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

BRIEF SUMMARY

Following a review of the Joint Carer Strategy for Southampton it was agreed a Commissioning Framework was needed to progress city wide work to support carers. This was completed and approved in 2013 across Southampton City Council (SCC) and Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG).

One element of the Commissioning Framework was the recommissioning of services in Southampton to support carers in their local communities. This would result in two contracts, one for adult carers and one for young carers. This would require the pooling of resources from a variety of contracts and services. The new Adult service will be required to provide a significant increase in the identification of carers alongside increased provision of advice and support, while retaining some of the smaller vital and valuable services currently operating in some areas of the City.

The procurement process for these contracts commenced in December 2013 with final submissions on 6th February 2014. Submissions have been evaluated in line with SCC procurement requirements and resulted in the Adult service being recommended to be awarded to Tenderer A of the Adult submissions, and the Young Carer service being awarded to the successful bidder (also referred to as Tenderer A) for this contract). Tenderer A is not the same provider for both contracts.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve the award of the contract to Support Services For Adult Carers in the City of Southampton to Tenderer A to commence on 1st September 2014 for a period of 3 years.

- (ii) To approve the award of this contract to provide Supported Services Targeted at Young Carers in Southampton to Tenderer A (for this contract) to commence on 1st September 2014 for a period of 3 years.
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Director of People, following consultation with the Head of Legal & Democratic Services, to enter into a Section 256 agreement with Southampton City Clinical Commissioning group for a period concurrent with the Support Services For Adult Carers contract.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Through the award of this contract for the Adult Carer service there will be a move away from the current short term and ad hoc funding approach currently in place for a number of services.
2. Through the award of this contract the new Young Carer service will be able to continue to provide current level of high quality support while incorporating new initiatives in line with emerging evidence
3. The new service for adult carers will streamline current provision while expanding the identification, advice, information and support provided to the increasing number of unpaid carers. It substantially increase the number of carers identified from April 2014, rising from under 3,000 to over 5,000 by March 2015. This will be supported by the creation of a single contact point for advice and information for all adult carers in Southampton. The new service will provide good practice, reduce duplication and address gaps. These changes and improvements will ensure services help carers to be healthy; and promote their wellbeing both physically and mentally
4. The new service for young carers will continue to provide a high quality targeted service to young carers in Southampton. The service will provide individual and group support to young carers to support them to attend school, achieve equivalent educational levels as their peers, have access to mainstream leisure activities and are supported in maintaining their family and personal relationship. The new Young Carer service has been reviewed and developed through this procurement to align with two key priorities in the Council plan 2013-16, which will
 raise the ambitions and improve outcomes for children and young people; including the reduction of school absence rates and the gap in attainment.
 Improve health and keep young people safe; including improvement in the safeguarding of vulnerable children and young people, improved health and reduced health inequalities and a reduced number of young people entering the criminal justice system

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. For the reasons detailed above other possible alternative options were discounted.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

6. 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 SCCCG 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 these services will form a part of ongoing and future improvements
7. 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 of 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.
8. We know around 200 young carers are provided with support each year in Southampton. The integrated commissioning intention is to ensure young carers receive timely and effective support for young carers and their families, in doing seek to keep families together, give due consideration of children at risk of harm and where appropriate enable them to maintain their engagement with education and leisure equitable to their peers
9. The integrated commissioning unit's intention is to substantially improve the number of adult 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.
10. The specification used in the procurement sought to drive quality and increased identification. This, supported by key performance indicators (KPIs) with a direct read across into the contract terms and conditions, will provide clarity for providers and a strong framework for effective implementation. For example the contract for the Adult carer service provides the mechanism to monitor how the services would meet the requirements for significantly increasing the identification of adult carers. For Young carers the contract provides the mechanism to monitor how the services would meet the requirements for young carers, ensuring they have equal opportunities and access to services as their peers.

11. Adult Carer Service

Two agencies tendered for the adult carer service. For both contracts the evaluation process run was reasonable, fair and transparent and complied with the applicable requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the process the council stated within its Invitation to Tender.

12. The Council completed the tender evaluation and in accordance with the Regulations the Council has informed the tenderers of their scores. The results are as follows

Tenderer A

- Quality 60.00
- Pricing 38.31
- Overall score 98.31

Tenderer B

- Quality 46.80
- Pricing 40.00
- Overall score 86.60

Both these scores have been shared with the tenderers as part of the procurement process.

13. Young Carer service

Only one agency tendered for the young carer service. For this contract the evaluation process run was reasonable, fair and transparent and complied with the applicable requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and in accordance with the process the council stated within its Invitation to Tender

14. There are few agencies in the local area seeking to provide services for young carers. The agency submitting the tender held a strong track record of providing young carer services. These factors were taken into account and the evaluation of the tender undertaken in accordance with above stated requirements. Tenderer A is therefore recommended.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

15. The proposed new services 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. Both contracts will run for an initial period of three years.
16. Within Health and Adult Social Care and Education and Change Portfolios there is a recurring revenue budget which funds a variety of contracted support services for carers. The Council's contribution to the proposed contract will be funded from within, and limited to, this existing resource.

17. Should a recurring saving be realised from these proposals the resource will be used effectively to maximise the impact on the wider financial position of the Council.

Property/Other

18. There are no implications in regards to property

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

19. The design and the running of this procurement has been in accordance with the authority's Contract Procedure and Financial Procedure Rules. Due to the size, value and complexity of this project, the appropriate procurement rule, with the necessary Governance outlined in the above will be followed. The procurement of this contract will be run in accordance in the requirements outlined within The Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the EU Procurement Directives 2006
20. Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995. This legislation provides a definition of a carer, but places a duty on local authorities to undertake carer assessments. The adult carer service will only signpost to the local authority those individuals eligible for an assessment. There is no relevance to Young carers in this act.
21. Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000. This act also states that a carer is entitled to an assessment of their own needs (by local authority). They may also be offered caring services in their own right. The adult carer service will only signpost to the local authority those individuals eligible for an assessment. There is no relevance to young carers in this act.
22. Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 (as amended) . The act seeks to ensure that carers are able to take up opportunities which those without caring responsibilities take for granted. Securing community based services provides support in meeting this legislative requirement.

Other Legal Implications:

23. The proposals in this report have been determined having regard to and are fully compliant with the Council's duties under the Equalities Act 2010 and associated guidance and having regard to the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules respectively.
24. In addition a number of national documents have been taken into account. These are:
 - NHS Outcomes Framework;
 - Public Health Outcomes Framework;
 - Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework;
 - Care and Support Bill (pending);
 - Children and Families Bill (pending)

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

19. None

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	None
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Yes
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	Joint Carer Strategy, Southampton	http://www.southamptoncarers.org.uk/carersstrategy.html
2.	Carer Commissioning Framework	Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Southampton, Oakley Road, Southampton, SO16 4GX
3.	Equality Impact Assessment - carers	Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Southampton, Oakley Road, Southampton, SO16 4GX