

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Date of Meeting:	14 th January 2013
Report of:	Robin Flynn, Business Manager Integrated Commissioning
Subject/Title:	Supporting People Short Term Services

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 Supporting People short term services are floating (visiting) support, and hostel type services, for vulnerable people who need specialised short term support either because they are homeless and/or because they need help to develop the basic skills needed to move forward to live independently.
- 1.2 Many of these services support the Council in meeting its statutory duties under various Housing acts to accommodate homeless people.
- 1.3 A key aspect of the replacement services is a requirement for providers to actively work to prevent homelessness, and also to work with the private sector more closely in order to accommodate people in housing need.
- 1.4 The services in Cheshire East have remained largely unchanged since the introduction of the Supporting People funding framework in April 2003.
- 1.5 Following a strategic review of these services disparities have been identified between need and current provision.
- 1.6 In practice this means that some services are currently only available in some parts of the borough and not in others, resulting in some cases in a 'postcode lottery'. The remodelling of services seeks to address this.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Portfolio holder endorses the work undertaken to re-model Supporting People services and in doing so provides Member level approval for the Council to enter into formal contract agreements
- 2.2 That the Portfolio holder notes the intention to seek new providers in time for service implementation on 1st April 2013

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The re-modelling and re-procurement of short term Supporting People services follows a consultation exercise involving a series of meetings with service users, stakeholders and existing providers.

- 3.2 In addition local needs data has been used to inform the planning of replacement services.
- 3.3 Two procurement exercises are now well under-way to seek providers of these replacement services, in order that there will be no disruption to service provision when the existing contracts expire on 31st March 2013.
- 3.4 An urgent decision is therefore sought to ensure that the procurement can continue in a timely manner.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All ward members

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The replacement services are valued at approximately £1.93M per annum. These costs can be absorbed within the currently anticipated reduced resources available in 2013/14 and form part of the increased value for money being delivered from the Supporting People budget which has been reduced by over 20% in the last two years.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Existing contracts end on 31.3.13, with no option to extend.
- 8.2 Replacement services must be procured under EU legislation and the Councils Finance and Contract Procedure Rules, which is a time consuming process.
- 8.3 Failure to procure replacement services would mean that permission would need to be sought to extend existing contracts in breach of EU procurement legislation and the Councils Finance and Contract Procedure Rules.
- 8.4 The two procurement exercise have been undertaken in accordance with the Councils Finance and Contract Procedure Rules

10.0 Risk Management

- 10.1 Failure to commission the replacement services would mean that no services would be available to replace the existing services which end on 31st March 2013.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 Supporting People pays for housing related support services to enable vulnerable adults to live independently. Supporting People services support a wide range of vulnerable people including:

- Asylum seekers or refugees
- Black and minority ethnic groups
- Ex-offenders and those at risk of offending or re-offending
- Older people
- People experiencing homelessness
- People with HIV and AIDS
- People with learning disabilities
- People with mental health problems
- People with sensory or physical disabilities
- Substance mis-users
- Teenage parents
- Travellers
- Vulnerable young people
- Women fleeing domestic violence

11.2 There are two types of Supporting People service:

- Accommodation based - where the support is linked to the accommodation, for example sheltered housing and homeless hostels.
- Floating support - where the support is linked to the individual

11.3 These services support the Councils delivery of statutory housing services. Failure to procure replacement services could result in considerable difficulties for the Council discharging its statutory duties under Housing legislation.

11.4 The re-modelling and re-procurement of short term Supporting People services follows a consultation exercise involving a series of meetings with service users, stakeholders and existing providers.

11.5 In addition local needs data has been used to inform the planning of replacement services.

11.6 The service model being procured through new contracts intends to improve the range of services available across all parts of Cheshire East, and all types of floating support services will, for the first time, be available in all parts of the borough.

11.7 The Constitution requires that a Contract can only be awarded where the necessary budget approval is in place and the appropriate consents from elected members have been given. Although the proposed changes can be met from within the approved budget formal member approval to the new service model is required.

- 11.8 Each Portfolio Holder has individual responsibility to make decisions in respect of their Portfolio. This report therefore invites the Portfolio holder to endorse the new service model being procured through new contracts and in doing so provide the necessary approval for the Council to enter into formal contract agreements.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writers:

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