

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

20 September 2010

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Gerard Hall (Adult's Services and Public Health Portfolio Holder)

Councillors:

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director of Commissioning
Neil Harrison, Strategic Commissioner – Working Age Adults
Peter Morgan, Senior Commissioning Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

11. Richmond Fellowship – Eamont Terrace *(Senior Commissioning Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services approval to make an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules in respect of the contract with Richmond Fellowship for the provision of housing related support for people with mental health needs at Eamont Terrace and enter into a contract for 6 months until March 2011.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided information on the current contract with Richmond Fellowship which provides housing related support for 8 clients with mental health problems at a purpose built supported housing scheme at Eamont Terrace. The property is owned by Three Rivers Housing but managed by the Richmond Fellowship with each resident occupying their own self contained flat through a tenancy agreement with Three Rivers Housing Association. A review had highlighted issues with quality of the service provided but an action plan had been formulated to address these and the Fellowship were meeting minimum standards. However the Commissioned Services Team had been advised that it

would be necessary to hold a procurement exercise for re-tendering as the current contract with Richmond Fellowship expired on 4 October 2010. Circumstances within the department had prevented the tendering process from being held before the expiry of the contract and therefore it was proposed to enter into a contract with Richmond Fellowship for 6 months until 1 April 2011, by which time a further tendering process would be complete.

The Portfolio Holder asked for clarification that following the implementation of the action plan the Richmond Fellowship met the required minimum standards and was assured that these were being met. He was informed that changes were to be made with staffing overnight at the premises which would not impact on services provided but would have a cost saving element.

The Portfolio Holder expressed support for the facility.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules in relation to the contract with Richmond Fellowship for the provision of housing related support for people with mental health problems and entered into a contract for 6 months until 31 March 2011.

12. Social Care Contracts (MIND, The Artrium & PROP) *(Assistant Director of Commissioning)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek the Portfolio Holder's approval to make an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules in respect of three social care contracts.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Council has had contracts with People's Relief of Pressure – Mental Health Services, Hartlepool Arts Studio Project – Community Arts Studio and MIND – Mental Health Recovery Service for community based mental health services since 2004.

It was agreed in 2008 that the funding for the three existing services commissioned by HBC from MIND, Artrium and PROP (value circa £120K), as well as HBC services delivered through Integrated Mental Health Services (value circa £175K) and PCT funded component of day services (value circa £100K) would be re-invested in the new 'Moving Forward Day Services' model of delivery. In a report to the Portfolio

Holder presented on 7 December 2009, permission was requested to waive contract procedure rules and extend the existing contracts to 30 September 2010 to enable a tendering exercise to take place. However, after the tendering exercise had taken place, the decision to withdraw the tender was made due to the recent change in Government and a need to review the overall service delivery across the Council and the PCT. It was asked that the Portfolio Holder agrees to make an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules and, given that there is no option to extend the contracts, grants permission to enter into new Agreements with the three providers for 12 months from October 2010 whilst the review was taking place.

The Portfolio Holder queried the financial implications of the contract as outlined in item 4.1 of the report and the Assistant Director agreed to clarify this for him. He also stressed that when services were put out to tender all prospective providers should be well versed in what was expected of them.

Decision

That the Portfolio Holder agrees to make an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules and, given that there is no option to extend the contracts, grants permission to enter into new Agreements with the three providers for a duration of 12 months from October 2010 with the proviso that when the contracts were eventually re-tendered for, all prospective tenderers applied under the same conditions to satisfy legal requirements.

13. Update Briefing on Carers Service *(Assistant Director of Commissioning)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made in delivering carers services in 2009/2010 and to set out the intended direction of travel over the next 12 months.

Issues for Consideration by the Portfolio Holder

The report summarised the progress made in delivering carers services in Hartlepool and outlined the role of the Carers Strategy Group which meets regularly to consult with carers to produce support for them and their families. Direct Payments have been made available to enable carers to commission their own support. The Carers Strategy Group determines a large amount of the Carers Grant spend and funding has been provided for the provision of support such as affordable adapted

transport, a drama group and a meeting place for asian female carers aged over 16.

The Carers Emergency Respite Care Scheme is well established in supporting carers. 164 carers are currently registered with this scheme and the target is to have 400 carers registered by December 2010. There is also a job club for carers wanting to return to employment. There are 140 registered young carers in Hartlepool and there is a Junior Club and Youth Forum supported by Hartlepool Carers, although it was the view of Child Services that those young children should be supported to move out of the young carer's role.

The forthcoming Carers Strategy will be a joint strategy encompassing adult carers, young carers and parent carers of children with a disability within a framework of 'think family'. A Resource Allocation System (RAS) would be developed for carers to enable them to receive a personal budget to support them to sustain their caring role, encouraging well being and independence.

A further report outlining the refreshed Carers Strategy would be presented to the Portfolio Holder in approximately 6 months time.

The Carers Grant was currently from ring fenced funding, although this was not guaranteed for future years and commitments may have to be reviewed accordingly should there be any change in funding allocation.

The Portfolio Holder recognised the work done by carers in Hartlepool and felt that it was positive that they should have some financial recognition.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report.

17. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

Under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) order 2006

Minute 18 – Endeavour Housing Association: Campus Re-provision, – this item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation)Order 2006) namely (para 3), information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person

(including the authority holding that information).

18. Endeavour Housing Association: Campus Re-provision *(Strategic Commissioner – Working Age Adults)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services of the intention to enter into contractual agreement with Endeavour Housing Association to acquire and develop properties for Service Users who previously resided in accommodation that is owned and run by the National Health Service.

Issues for Consideration

The Portfolio Holder declared a Personal Interest in this item.

The report provided information on the proposed arrangements and the financial impact of the provision of the scheme.

Decision

This was outlined in the exempt section of the minutes

The meeting concluded at 10.45 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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