

Report to Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Decision to be taken on or after 18 February 2019

Decision can normally be implemented at least
3 working days after decision has been signed.

Cabinet Member Report No. HW02.19

Title: Decision to award a contract to Carers Bucks for the provision of an Integrated Carers Support Service

Date: 8 February 2019

Author: Jane Bowie, Service Director Integrated Commissioning

Contact officer: John Everson Tel: 01296 387714, Lisa Truett Tel: 01296 387656

Local members affected:

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

There is a confidential appendix to this report, which is exempt by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

A. Summary

Buckinghamshire County Council is required to re-commission a carers support service as the current provider's contract expires on 31 March 2019. The proposed re-commissioning exercise will result in greater integration of Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) activities to support carers of adults and children across Buckinghamshire. This report recommends the award of the contract for the provision of an Integrated Carers Support Service to Carers Bucks, following conclusion of a competitive tender process as detailed further

in confidential Appendix 2. The contract is expected to commence on 1 April 2019 for an initial period of three years with the option to extend for a further period or periods of one year each up to a maximum of two years.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Members are asked to approve the decision to award the contract for the provision of an Integrated Carers Support Service to Carers Bucks.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

The Council recognises the vital role that carers play in supporting people to remain in their homes and recognise that to perform this vital roles carers may need support services from time to time. The recommissioned service has a delivery model that will be responsive to the evolving priorities of local communities, support the prevention agenda and develop independence and inclusion.

From a Children's Social Care perspective, a contract delivering support for young carers would form an important part of the Council's Early Help approach. This contract will offer support to families before any negative impact of the child or young person's caring role necessitates statutory intervention.

In June 2017 Buckinghamshire County Council was announced as one of eight local authorities implementing the Integrated Care System (ICS) in the country. An ICS works towards delivering better, safer and more joined up health and care for the communities we serve. The aim of the ICS is for the local NHS to work closely with social care and the voluntary sector to improve services. The revised carer support service will align to the objectives of the ICS.

Carers Bucks has submitted a tender that is responsive to the changing needs of carers and looks to support them through their caring journey. They have aligned their proposed model to the requirements of the local authority ensuring that carers are able to access the support they need at the time that they require it.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

There are no further extension options available within the current contract to extend.

If the decision to award is not agreed the Council may risk a gap in service whilst a revised service is commissioned. This will result in a detrimental impact to carer's ability to access carer specific information, advice and focused support.

C. Resource implications

The revised Carers Service will allow for resource to be focused on delivering support across Buckinghamshire to carers with varying levels of need. Staff employed by the incumbent provider will be eligible for TUPE.

No funding has been reduced through the recommissioning of this contract, robust processes have been followed to ensure that the provider is offering value for money.

Following award there will be a period of implementation which will require both the provider and the officer commitment.

D. Value for Money Self-Assessment

An open and competitive tender process was followed and Carers Bucks submitted a successful tender based on quality and price that met the requirements of the specification and was within the financial envelope available for the service.

E. Legal implications

A competitive tender process was followed in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Legal Services have advised on the terms and conditions of the contract to be awarded.

Legal advice has been sought with regards to the operation of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 in relation to existing staff employed in the provision of the current service.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the project as set out in Appendix 1; no groups have been identified as being adversely affected due to any protected characteristics.

F. Property implications

No property implications have been identified.

G. Other implications/issues

All key risks have been identified and appropriate mitigation is in place.

With any recommissioning exercise there can be implications for the current provider including risks associated with their ongoing viability.

H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

Commissioners have held 3 engagement groups with users of the current service. Children's services have held attended 10 young carers support groups to engage with service users. Feedback received during consultation with regard to young carers has been considered and as a result funding levels for young carer's service will be maintained.

Cabinet Members have been involved and informed throughout the development and subsequent tendering of the integrated carers support service.

I. Communication issues

Communication will be managed using a robust plan, prepared in partnership with the current providers and the Council's communications team.

As there are a large number of carers and stakeholders impacted, communication will be tailored accordingly.

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 15 February 2019. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk