

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER**

**29 October 2015**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care**

**RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR THE LICENSE AND SUPPORT AND  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM (RAS)**

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek Cab Co approval to renew the contract with FACE for the provision of the FACE RAS and related assessment forms (the service) for a further 3 years in accordance with Protocol 10 of Financial Regulations.

**2. Information and Analysis**

The FACE (Functional Assessment of Care Environments) Core Assessment Package was originally purchased from FACE Recording and Measurement Systems by the then Social Services Department in 2005 at a cost of £10,000 per annum. In 2008 with the advent of personalisation, the Adult Care Department worked with FACE on developing the RAS (Resource Allocations System).

The advantages of this option were:

- It was based on the use of FACE assessment tools that are already well validated and integrated into routine practice. Some staff were already familiar with the FACE assessment tool.
- It is a scientific, whole system approach based on a thorough analysis of representative samples of data. The scoring system used controls for local variation by taking representative samples of assessment data from a range of areas, involving all key stakeholders and distilling a method of scoring that best fits the data.
- The project was jointly led by David Challis and Paul Clifford of FACE and David Challis was Professor of Community Care at the Personal Social Services Research Unit, University of Manchester. The latter was involved in the Department of Health evaluation of the Personal Budget pilots.

Consequently, the FACE/RAS programme has been developed to address what is required as evidenced by the pilots as well as the requirements of national policy.

- It built on existing Single Assessment Process/Common Assessment Framework processes.

The FACE RAS software package was introduced in April 2010 on a pilot basis and since April 2011 has been fully integrated for use by all staff in Adult Care to calculate indicative budgets.

The adoption of the FACE RAS tool has been a major contributor in delivering consistency and transparency in assessment and enabling Adult Care to meet its budget considerations.

There are two elements to the contract with FACE Recording and Measurement Systems; these are a) the license and b) the support. The original contract with FACE for their assessment tools and support was for 3 years from April 2005 until April 2008.

At the time of purchase of the system procurement processes were not appropriate as the package had been jointly developed by DCC and FACE and there was therefore no other potential supplier.

Since 2011 the contract has been further extended on a number of occasions. The initial extension was for a period of 3 years from April 2008 at a cost of £20,000 per annum. This extension included the development work for the new RAS. The contract was then renewed in April 2011 for one year at a cost of £25,000 per annum and then extended to January 2016.

Allocation via the RAS remains an essential element of the Department's allocation system. FACE was developed in response to perceived inadequacies with simple points based systems. It is based on a series of algorithms which sit behind the assessment documentation and look at not only the clients' performance within certain life domains/activities of daily living but also where these impact on related life areas. This avoids double scoring as successful completion of a particular activity can be compared against completion of activities that demand similar actions and also provides a quality check for the assessment as a whole. The FACE system, as it has been developed, is accurate, intuitive (in that the professional chooses from a series of statements to identify the best fit with the clients' situation) and is fully integrated into DCC documentation and processes.

Market testing has been undertaken with other local authorities but the market remains substantially unchanged and no other supplier has been identified that would fulfil the Department's immediate and likely future requirements

The only potential alternative to the FACE RAS would be:

- Developing an in-house RAS. This would require a significant amount of officer time and technical know-how that is beyond existing resources.
- The procurement of an 'In Control' model: This is an alternative resource allocation system. However it is unable to provide the required degree of correlation between actual package costs and personal budgets.

Neither of these options would therefore deliver the level of accuracy provided by the current approach and both would require significant development time. The current RAS is fully integrated in to the existing Adult Care customer/client pathway and calibrated to DCC Adult care requirements. It is a bespoke system; the authority does not own the intellectual property rights, therefore making it difficult to facilitate a smooth transition for the procurement of a different system. Furthermore, any changes to our approach will require a costly and disruptive re-training of operational staff.

Consequently this places FACE in the position of specialist/sole single supplier in so far as it would not be possible in the current market to procure a comparable system from elsewhere.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

Use of the RAS has been central to the delivery of a consistent approach to assessment and resource allocation for all Adult Care client groups. This consistency combined with an emphasis on prevention and which takes account of client strengths and resources has helped deliver a sustainable approach to meeting adult care responsibilities.

With the introduction of the Care Act in April 2015 resource allocation systems remain the most valid approach to supporting the development of individual Care and Support plans. Furthermore the RAS can be utilised to produce a notional budget for self-funders which enables them to better plan their own care.

The costs of the proposed extension of the contract for licenses and support are as follows:

	Assessments	RAS	Total	Costs exclude VAT	
Year 1 2016 -17	£16,699	£28,137	£44,836		
Year 2 2017 -18	£16,933	£28,531	£45,464		
Year 3 2018 -19	£17,170	£28,930	£46,100	3 Year total	£136,400

The above costs would be met from within the existing Adult Care Budget. The Director of Finance is satisfied that the proposed extension represents best value to the Council in the circumstances set out.

#### **4. Legal Considerations**

In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations/Standing Orders in relation to contracts, a competitive tender process would normally be required to select a provider capable of offering the best value with regards to the provision of the Service.

However, despite the work undertaken since Cabinet approval was given to conduct a wider procurement exercise with a view to achieving greater integration of a number of Adult Care ICT systems this has not delivered, nor looks likely to deliver a viable alternative to the existing RAS tool.

In the circumstances described in the report it is considered that it would be reasonable to extend the existing contract for a period of 3 years and for the position to be reviewed thereafter taking account of any progress that might be made with this timeframe which might encompass this requirement.

#### **5. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: Prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, transport, property and human resource considerations.

#### **6. Background Papers**

None

## **7. Key Decision**

No

## **8. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period?**

No

## **9. Officer's Recommendation**

That Cabinet

- (1) agrees the extension of the contract with FACE Recording and Management Systems for a period of 3 years from January 2016 in accordance with Protocol 10 of Financial Regulations
- (2) receives a further report prior to the expiry of the extended contract as to the position at that time.

**Joy Hollister**  
**Strategic Director – Adult Care**