

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

28 July 2015

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

**MULTI-SUPPLIER FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF
LOW LEVEL FLOATING SUPPORT SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to undertake a procurement exercise to establish a multi-supplier framework agreement for the provision of low level one to one, floating support services, which will commence on 1 June 2016. The services are for adults with a learning, sensory, physical disability and/or mental ill health.

2. Information and Analysis

The existing contract for the provision of floating housing related support services is due to finish on 31 May 2016. Another current contract for the provision of one to one support is due to finish on 31 March 2016.

2.1 Low Level Support Services

The aim of low level support is to achieve choice, control and community inclusion to ensure individual needs are met. The main principles of low level support are to work with clients to maintain their tenancy and achieve independent living. The service works with other agencies and services who are working with someone in the community, with the aim of preventing the need for more intensive service provision. They take a proactive approach to working with people to develop their support networks, coping strategies and daily living skills.

The one to one service is currently used by the fieldwork team as an alternative to the re-ablement service which is more focused on assisting people who are recovering from ill health. The low level and floating support service enables people to develop skills and social opportunities so that they are unlikely to need further Adult Care support. The aim of the new service is to provide support to socially excluded disabled people of working age to access opportunities found in local social and other inclusive community activities as per assessed needs and/or redirection to other services.

The one-to-one service:

- Supports people to deal with finances; apply for benefits; housing difficulties; finding college courses and leisure activities,
- Works with young people in transition to build confidence and promote independence
- Is a generic service for people of working age. A generic service would cover all the client groups currently within the remit of our fieldwork teams
- Facilitates development of small, service user led where possible, friendship/activity groups.
- Supports people to gain work experience, voluntary work or paid work

The housing related support service focusses on:

- Making benefit claims and communicating with the benefits agency
- Budgeting and debt repayment
- Obtaining furniture and setting up a new home
- Maintaining contact with statutory services and other support providers
- Maintaining home security
- Support to resolve disputes with neighbours
- Accessing education, training or employment opportunities
- Understanding tenancy rights and landlord responsibilities
- Dealing with housing officers and private landlords
- Accessing local services (e.g. GP's, library, leisure centres)
- Developing and maintaining support networks
- Signposting/accessing specialist services (e.g. to address substance misuse issues)
- Dealing with evictions and possession proceedings
- Dealing with homeless applications
- Developing independent living skills

2.2 Proposed Multi Supplier Framework

The multi-supplier framework agreement will establish agreements with providers to deliver low level support services to those that do, and those that do not, meet the national Adult Care eligibility criteria. The framework agreement will set out terms and conditions under which specific purchases (call-offs) can be made for low level support for vulnerable people with identified support needs. There is no obligation on the Council to buy anything through a framework agreement, which means that the Council is not tied to the framework and can use it where it provides value for money and the requisite standard of support, but can use other contract arrangements if required.

It is proposed that the multi-supplier framework identifies a range of categories of services to be provided to ensure that prospective providers have the requisite skills and experience to meet the low level support needs of people with physical/sensory disabilities, people with learning disabilities and people with mental health ill health. There will be no restriction on the number of providers who can be on the framework or the number of categories of services that they can deliver, provided they meet the minimum required standards as set out in the tender documentation. It is considered that this mechanism provides the largest marketplace possible from which clients of adult care can select their activities.

It is proposed that the framework agreement term is for a period of two years with annual options for the Council to extend for up to three further periods of twelve months. If this tender exercise does not provide the extensive market coverage required and there are new entrants to the market then there will be further consideration of setting up a new framework agreement. Any such recommendation would be presented to Cabinet for approval.

3. Financial Considerations

The total spend on these services in 2014-15 was £0.565m. The future spend using the proposed framework will be met by Adult Care budgets.

4. Legal Considerations

The framework agreement will establish contracts with providers which set out terms and conditions under which specific purchases (call-offs) can be made for the services, which can be used when required throughout the term of the agreement.

5. Equality and Diversity Considerations

The use of the framework agreement for the provision of low level support services for vulnerable adults will promote dignity, choice, respect and inclusion. The procurement process and service specifications will be used to assess and monitor the values and practices of providers in relation to equality and diversity.

6. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: human resources, health, environmental, transport, and crime and disorder considerations.

7. Key Decision

No

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

No

9. Officer's Recommendation

That Cabinet approves a procurement exercise to establish a multi- supplier framework agreement for the provision of low level one to one, floating support services, which will commence on 1 June 2016. The services are for adults with a learning, sensory, physical disability and/or mental ill health.

Mary McElvaney
Strategic Director – Adult Care