

EXTRA CARE AND SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Reason for the Report

1. To provide the Committee with background information to enable Members to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the draft proposals for the proposed overarching approach to the recommissioning of extra-care and supported living services for older people and vulnerable adults prior to its consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 17 September 2020
2. A copy of the draft cabinet report is attached at **Appendix 1**, which in turn contains the following:
 - Appendix 2**- Equality Impact Assessment

Background

3. Extra Care Housing is designed to meet the needs of older people with varying levels of care with support available on site. Extra Care Housing is also known as very sheltered housing, assisted living or 'housing with care'. Supported Living is a service to help individuals with a wide range of support needs retain their independence by being supported within their own home.
4. For the current provision and proposed recommissioning, the current extra-care schemes are;
 - Llys Enfys (*of the 102 properties, 34 are sheltered housing and are not part of the proposed arrangements*)
 - Plas Bryn (*40 properties*)

5. For the current provision and proposed recommissioning, the current supported living schemes are;
 - Dol-Yr-Hafen (15 properties)
 - Cwrt Hir (*16 properties*)

6. With regard to Llys Enfys and Plas Bryn Extra-care, the Director of Social Services authorised the award of the most recent Personal Domiciliary Care Services contract to the successful tenderers with contracts to commence on 12th December 2016. The contract was awarded for a fixed term of three years with the option to extend for a further period of up to 12 months. In December 2019, the option to extend the contract was taken up and authorised by the Assistant Director Social Services. The contract terms do not allow for a further extension

7. With regard to Dol Yr Hafren and Cwrt Hir Support Living Schemes, the Director of Social Services authorised the award of the most recent Personal Domiciliary Care Supported Living Service contract to the incumbent service provider. The contract was awarded for a fixed period of 1 year with the option to extend for a further period of up to 12 months. In December 2019, the option to extend the contract was taken up and authorised by the Assistant Director Social Services. The contract terms do not allow for a further extension.

Issues

8. The contract value for the domiciliary care element of the contracts currently amounts to circa £1.15m per annum. As the expenditure is significant, it is proposed within the cabinet report to secure the future service via a tender/procurement process on the basis of the “most economically advantageous tender” using quality and price criteria.

9. The cabinet report also proposes to issue a longer term contract due to benefits which will allow the market to be sustainable, to work in partnership with the Council and be creative in delivering a strengths based practice approach, focusing on well-being, assessment, care and support planning and reviews.

10. Although initial contract terms did not allow for further extension, due to the recent Covid-19 situation, recent Welsh Government regulation allows some change to contract and procurement rules.

11. The Covid-19 situation delayed the setting up of a project group and the commencement of the procurement process to the point where there was no sufficient time to complete a tender exercise and appoint a provider/s allowing for a period of transition. As such discussions are taking place with the current providers regarding them continuing to provide the service until 31 March 2021.
12. The Cabinet report also highlights that given the current and ongoing Covid-19 situation the market may not be focussed on acquiring new opportunities so there could be a limited response to tender opportunity.
13. From 1 April 2016, the UK Government introduced a requirement for all employers to pay a mandatory National Living Wage (NLW) for workers aged 25 and above. The NLW increases since then have had a significant impact on the market and workforce. From 1 April 2020 the rate saw a rise from £8.21 to £8.72 per hour, an increase of 6.2 per cent. As a result, there is a potential for tender prices submitted by the market to be an increase on previous provision

Scope of Scrutiny

14. At this meeting, Councillor Susan Elsmore, (Cabinet Member Social Care, Health & Well-being) along with relevant officers from the Social Services Directorate will be in attendance to provide an overview and answer Members' questions.
15. Pre-decision scrutiny aims to inform Cabinet's decisions by making evidence based recommendations. Scrutiny Members are advised to:
 - a. Look at the information provided in the report to Cabinet and its subsequent appendices to see if this is sufficient to enable the Cabinet to make an informed decision;
 - b. Check the financial implications section of the Cabinet report to be aware of the advice given;
 - c. Check the legal implications section of the Cabinet report to be aware of the advice given;
 - d. Check the recommendations to Cabinet to see if these are appropriate.
15. Members will then be able to decide what comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for their consideration prior to making their decisions on the 17 September 2020.

Legal Implications

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decision taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirements imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (he) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

17. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. The Committee is recommended to:
- a. Consider the information provided in the draft cabinet report attached at **Appendix 1** and the subsequent appendices;
 - b. consider the information provided at the meeting; and
 - c. determine whether it wishes to relay any comments or observations to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on the 17 Sep 2020.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services

11 September 2020