

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

17 NOVEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

LEARNING DISABILITIES SUPPORTED LIVING CONTRACTS EXTENSION

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority to vary the current contracts in place with the three supported living services commissioned for people with a learning disability, by extending the existing terms for a further 12 months, in accordance with Contract Procedure Rule (CPR) 3.2.9.3

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-
1. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 2. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 The current contracts in place for the provision of Supported Living Services to people with a Learning Disability were commissioned as three separate Lots in 2016. Contracts were awarded to Cartrefi (Lot 1), Mirus (Lot 2) and DRIVE Ltd (Lot 3) following a tender exercise being undertaken, and all three existing contracts in place expire on 31st March 2021, with no further extension provision.
- 3.2 In November 2019, Cabinet approved a two-stage procurement process for the re-commissioning of service providers to deliver supported living services for individuals with a learning disability living in Bridgend. The re-commissioning plan moves away from the current 'county-wide' contracts with 3 service providers, to a 'locality' based model whereby service providers can deliver person-centred, localised support for people that enables them to engage more fully in their local community and helps to better promote their journey towards independence.
- 3.3 In March 2020 Cabinet approved the award of a framework agreement to successful bidders, and for the Council to begin to implement the Stage 2 procurement of local area service call-off tenders.

- 3.4 It was noted in the report to Cabinet in March 2020 that each local area service will only be tendered following consultation and engagement with individuals within each supported living scheme, to be undertaken independently by People First Bridgend (PFB). The feedback from individuals is to be used as the basis of co-producing the service specification for each local area service contract.
- 3.5 It was anticipated that all the local area service tenders would take place over a 12-month period, between April 2020 (when framework agreements commenced) and March 2021, when the current contracts expire.
- 3.6 The PFB consultation and engagement work commenced via face-to-face meetings with individuals in the service in March 2020, but due to the significant and unforeseen impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting lockdown restrictions, these had to cease shortly afterwards, in April.
- 3.7 With national and local lockdown restrictions limiting face-to-face consultation, there has been a reliance on virtual consultation methods instead of face-to-face engagement, which is severely impacting on the effectiveness of the engagement, and also the timescales needed to fully engage with each supported living scheme prior to tendering the local area service contracts – which was originally scheduled to be completed by March 2021.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 It is proposed that the existing contracts in place with the three service providers be extended for a further 12 months, to 31 March 2022, which is the length of time deemed necessary in order to carry out full and meaningful consultation in accordance with the commissioning approach approved by Cabinet in March 2020.
- 4.2 There is provision under CPR 3.2.9.3 to seek to modify an existing contract where:
- (i) the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which the Council having been duly diligent could not have foreseen;
 - (ii) the modification does not alter the overall nature of the Contract;
 - (iii) any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original Contract or Framework Agreement.
- 4.3 The need for modification has been brought about by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, circumstances which the Council could not have foreseen when entering into the original contracts. The overall nature of the contract will not be altered, and all other contractual terms remain unchanged, as the proposed variation is for a 12 month extension only. The proposed modification does not exceed 50% of the original contract value. Please see the financial implications below for further details on the value of the proposed modification.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 This report seeks to modify an existing contract in accordance with CPR rule 3.2.9.3. There is no direct impact on the Council's policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening was undertaken in September 2019 and reviewed in November 2020, which found that a full EIA was not required due to the fact that individuals within the service will continue to receive the same level of service to meet their assessed needs within the Supported Living scheme.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 Variation of the existing contracts for supported living services allows for meaningful consultation to be undertaken to inform the new model of service delivery, which supports the five ways of working under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, as follows:

Long Term – Moving towards a ‘locality-based’ service model enables service providers to establish closer and longer-term working relationships with other local community groups, agencies, and local residents. This is a more sustainable approach to ensuring people are better supported in maintaining their independence and wellbeing and follows a ‘community development’ approach that enables the service provider to become more established in the longer-term.

Prevention – The Supported Living service aims to support the progression of individuals towards independence with some potential to reduce the level of support needs they have and to prevent the escalation of needs by offering a stable living environment and maintaining their tenancy support through appropriate housing related support.

Integration – The service providers will need to work with a wide range of stakeholder groups to help individuals to better integrate into their local community.

Collaboration – The ‘locality’ service model is predicated on close collaboration between the service provider and social services teams and other support agencies. The service model requires service providers to demonstrate collaboration between staff within the local schemes they manage and between service providers in other localities to identify and support the needs and aspirations of the individuals they support.

Involvement – Key stakeholders have been involved in early-stage engagement activities to help shape and inform the service proposal. An in-depth local engagement is proposed within each locality to ensure a co-productive approach to detailing the service specifications for each Local Area Service. This makes sure that the individuals who receive the service have been fully involved in identifying the key priorities for the support they will get from their service providers.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 There are no budgetary implications for Bridgend County Borough Council in extending the contracts to the 31 March 2022.
- 8.2 The cost of the proposed contract extensions for a period of 12 months is estimated to be circa £6.5M, which is made up of adult social care budget (£5M) and Welsh Government Housing Support Grant (£1.5M) funding based on the rates currently being paid to Cartrefi, Mirus and DRIVE Ltd in 2020-21.

8.3 The sum estimated above does not exceed £12.5M, which is 50% of the original (5 year) contract value, and the maximum amount allowable under CPR's.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet authorise the modification of the existing contracts with Cartrefi (Lot 1), Mirus (Lot 2) and DRIVE Ltd (Lot 3) by extending the existing terms for a further 12 months to 31st March 2022, in accordance with CPR 3.2.9.3.

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Background documents

None