

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

*To:* **Cabinet**

*Date:* **28<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

*From:* **Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Forward Plan ref:* **N/a** *Key decision:* **No**

*Purpose:* **To introduce the Adult Social Care Procurement Strategy. The Strategy defines the approach to purchasing services across adult social care.**

*Recommendation:* **Cabinet are asked to agree the Adult Social Care Procurement Strategy.**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Council's Internal Audit Service undertook an audit of Adult Social Care (ASC) Contracts in 2012. One of the recommendations from the final report was for an overall strategy for contract management to be developed in order to provide an effective framework for contract management.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 The Adult Social Care Procurement Strategy sets out the way in which contracts will be designed, assessed, monitored and reviewed to ensure that they meet the needs of vulnerable people across the county and deliver value for money. The Strategy includes references to the types of interventions and approaches that the Contracts Team and other teams will adopt to support and encourage providers to improve and diversify their services. The report describes the developing approach to integrated services across health and social care along with an increasing requirement to involve housing providers and the community and voluntary sectors in the provision of services.
- 2.2 The Strategy recognises that the procurement processes used by the Council will need to reflect the risks, criticality of the services being purchased and requirement to obtain value for money; against the time and resources expended by providers when they competitively tender for work. The procurement process adopted by the Council will be amended to ensure that it is not unduly onerous and offers different types and sizes of organisation the same opportunities to develop new services that meet the needs of people requiring support from adult social care.
- 2.3 Involving people who use services in the development, monitoring and review of services will be improved to ensure that services are challenged and encouraged to improve from a user perspective. Increasing choice and the availability of services across a large county remains a real challenge for the County Council, the Procurement Strategy sets out a number of initiatives that will encourage providers to meet those challenges.

## **3. ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES AND WAYS OF WORKING**

### **3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

The Procurement Strategy describes the steps that will be taken to ensure that local businesses are supported and encouraged to bid for adult social care contracts. The Strategy also describes ways in which local providers will be involved in developing services that meet the identified needs of a range of vulnerable groups currently supported by the department.

The Procurement Strategy sets out the implications for this priority in Paragraphs 4.5 and 7.0.

### **3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

Developing community infrastructure alongside the community and voluntary sectors is a key challenge facing adult social care. Providing seamless, accessible services across the whole county in conjunction with a range of partners will assist people to live independent lives for as long as possible. Effective procurement has an important part to play in achieving these goals.

The Procurement Strategy sets out ways in which the County Council will work with a range of stakeholders and partners to address these challenges.

The Procurement Strategy sets out the implications for this priority in Paragraphs 7.0, 8.0, 10.0, 11.0 and 12.

### **3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

The Procurement Strategy sets out the approach that the County Council will adopt towards working with other agencies, the voluntary and Community sector and independent providers in order to develop services that allow people to continue to live independent lives.

The Procurement Strategy sets out the implications for this priority in Paragraph 11.0.

### **3.4 Ways of working**

The Strategy briefly describes a number of amended responsibilities placed on local authorities as a consequence of the draft *Care and Support Bill*. The County Council is expected to adopt a leadership role alongside its health partners to ensure that these responsibilities are discharged effectively. The Procurement Strategy sets out the implications for this priority in Paragraph 22.1

## **4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Resource and Performance Implications**

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Procurement within Adult Social Care has the potential to make a significant contribution to the savings targets planned across the Council.
- A recognition of the growing number of people requiring support from the County Council as they get older, or with a long-term condition.
- Procurement activity must be structured to take account of the value and risk of the service being commissioned, without being so onerous that it discourages potential providers.
- The County Council must be willing to be challenged and be open to new ideas and ways of providing services.
- Working in partnership with the voluntary and community sectors has the potential to contribute towards the development of services (preventative) that keep people out of statutory services.

### **4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications**

The County Council is required to ensure “Best Value” in terms of the way in which it discharges its functions. Procurement activity across adult social care must comply with European Union Procurement Directives (where applicable), along with the County Council’s Contract Regulations.

#### **4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no significant equality and diversity implications for any of the prompt questions within this category.

#### **4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications**

The Procurement Strategy recognises the important role that users of services, their advocates and families can play in developing the future direction and configuration of services. The Strategy describes a number of ways in which services can be co-produced using the expertise of those using services alongside providers of service, partners and stakeholders.

#### **4.5 Public Health Implications**

The Strategy takes into account the growth in the number of older people, people with a learning disability, physical disability along with the anticipated growth in the number of people with a long-term condition. The Strategy supports the development of preventative services that will ensure that people have access to services that assist them to remain independent.