

**LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY**

**STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION**

The Portfolio Holder for Care Services (including Public Health), Councillor Robert Evans has made the following executive decision:

**WELFARE BENEFITS CONTRACTS EXTENSION**

**Reference Report:**

*Welfare Benefits Contracts Extension*

**Decision:**

That the proposed extension of three existing welfare benefits advice contracts for a period of three months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 under Contract Procurement Rule 3.7 be agreed.

That an integrated benefits advice service be tendered for a period of one year from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 with the option to extend for a further year subject to the approval of the Portfolio Holder for Care Services.

**Reasons:**

Age UK Bromley & Greenwich, Bromley Mencap and Broadway are currently commissioned to deliver benefits advice services to assist older people, people with learning disabilities and people with mental health needs to be aware of their benefits allowance and offer practical support to maximise benefit income, reduce dependence on statutory frontline services and support independence during a period when significant changes are being made to welfare benefits.

As welfare benefit changes bed in, it is proposed that the Local Authority continue to commission a benefits advice service for a further year, with the option to extend for one year, but that significant efficiencies will be achieved by amalgamating the service into one contract. It is therefore requested that the existing benefits advice contracts be extended for a period of three months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to allow providers time to prepare for the forthcoming changes and for commissioners to retender the service as a single contract.

The proposed decision was scrutinised by the Care Services PDS Committee on 10th March 2016 and the Committee supported the proposal.

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Councillor Robert Evans  
Portfolio Holder for Care Services (including Public Health)

**Mark Bowen**  
**Director of Corporate Services**  
**Bromley Civic Centre**  
**Stockwell Close**  
**Bromley BR1 3UH**

**Date of Decision:** 17 March 2016

**Implementation Date (subject to call-in):** 24 March 2016

**Decision Reference:** CSD16012