

CARE SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 9 February 2016

Present:

Councillor Judi Ellis (Chairman)
Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Ruth Bennett, Kevin Brooks, Mary Cooke,
Hannah Gray, David Jefferys and Stephen Wells

Linda Gabriel

Also Present:

Councillor Robert Evans, Portfolio Holder for Care Services
Councillor Diane Smith, Executive Support Assistant to the Portfolio
Holder for Care Services

70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Nathan and Councillor Charles Rideout.

Apologies for absence were also received from Justine Godbeer.

71 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Jefferys declared that he was the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to Item 5a: Proposal for the Council's Public Health Budget 2016/17 and 2017/18.

72 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

Three written questions were received from Justine Godbeer, Co-opted Member representing Bromley Experts by Experience and these are attached at Appendix A.

HOLDING THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND EXECUTIVE TO ACCOUNT

73 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF CARE SERVICES PORTFOLIO REPORTS

A) HOUSING IT SYSTEM (CONTRACT EXTENSION)

Report CS16009

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report seeking authorisation to agree new maintenance contracts for the existing information systems used by the Housing Division for a two year period from 1st April 2016.

The Housing Division used two information systems to support its business. These comprised Home Connections which offered Choice based lettings functionality, and the Northgate Housing System which provided a range of services including an online housing application form, a case management service for housing advice, homeless cases and rent accounts, and a document management system, as well as providing statutory reporting functions. The existing maintenance contracts for these systems would end on 31st March 2016.

Following consideration of a Gateway Review of Housing Information Systems in January 2015, Members had agreed to fund the procurement of a new information system which would meet the current and future statutory requirements of the Housing Division. An initial tendering exercise had been undertaken which had not been successful in attracting bids, following which a range of alternative procurement options had been explored and would be reported to Care Services PDS Committee at its meeting on 10th March 2016.

In order to ensure that the business of the Housing Division continued to be supported during the procurement process for a new information system, it was proposed that contracts be agreed with Home Connections and Northgate for the maintenance of the existing information systems for a maximum period of two years with the opportunity to terminate on three months' notice if the new information system was implemented at an earlier date.

In considering the report, the Chairman was concerned that the initial tendering exercise had not been successful in attracting bids. The Assistant Director: Housing Needs reported that only a small number of providers offered the kind of system needed by the Housing Division, and that these providers had been approached for feedback following the initial tendering exercise. This process had identified that the ability of a number of these providers to submit bids had been limited by similar tenders being run by two large national organisations during the same period and by some of the providers moving to a new IT platform. Some comments had also been made regarding the need to streamline processes and the split between quality and pricing, and these would be taken into consideration for future tendering exercises. The initial tender specification had been drawn up by an IT Project Manager working with the Housing Division to ensure that the system would meet the current and future statutory requirements of the service, and best practice had also been drawn from similar tender specifications by other local authorities who had successfully attracted bids.

In discussion, Members underlined the importance of ensuring that any future tender specification was drawn up to a high standard, and queried whether there was a need for additional expertise to support this.

A Member highlighted the delay to the procurement process caused by the unsuccessful initial tendering exercise, and queried how this would impact the savings which were expected to be realised by the introduction of a new information system. The Assistant Director: Housing Needs confirmed that a report on the recommended actions for procurement would be provided to the next meeting of Care Services PDS Committee on 10th March 2016, and that it was hoped that any delay to the procurement process would be minimal. The main element of savings expected from the new information system would be through a reduction in the cost of upgrades and system maintenance from 2018/19. Further work would be undertaken with Finance Officers on how the delay in procuring a new information system would impact projected savings for forthcoming years and an update would be provided to Members following the meeting.

A Member requested that an update on the procurement process for the new Housing IT system be reported to all future meetings of Care Services PDS Committee.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- 1) Agree an exemption from tendering to allow contracts for systems maintenance to be awarded to the following providers:**
 - i) Home Connections for a two year period from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2018 at a cost of £23,312; and,**
 - ii) Northgate Housing System for a two year period from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2018 at a cost of £87,084.**
- 2) Agree that authority be delegated for the purchase of essential upgrades to the Northgate system to the Assistant Director: Housing Needs in consultation with the Head of IT and Portfolio Holder for Care Services.**

74 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE

A) PROPOSAL FOR THE COUNCIL'S PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET 2016/17 AND 2017-18

Report CS16002

The Committee considered a report setting out the proposal for the Public Health Budget for 2016/17 and 2017/18.

In July 2015, the Department for Health announced an in-year reduction in the Public Health grant of 6.1%, which equated to a reduction of £919,000 for the London Borough of Bromley. In considering how Public Health services could best be delivered in future years following the reduction in grant funding, it was proposed that the provision and commissioning of key statutory and

mandated Public Health services be prioritised, and that there be a reduction or cessation of provision and commissioning of non-statutory and non-mandated services. It was also proposed that there should be a reprioritisation of the Public Health grant to address wider determinants of health, and that work be undertaken to achieve further general efficiencies across the Public Health division.

For 2016/17, it was proposed that the commissioned activity of sexual health and the commissioned and provided activity of NHS Health Checks be reduced, and that there be a cessation of the commissioned services for adult weight management and adult exercise referral scheme. For 2017/18, it was proposed that there be a cessation of the commissioned services for general health improvement, smoking cessation and childhood obesity programme, and that there also be a cessation of the commissioned service for school nursing, although alternate funding for this service would be considered for 2016/17. It was also proposed that there would be further general efficiencies across the Public Health Division including reduction or cessation of all non-statutory activities and costs.

Consultation on the proposal for the Council's Public Health budget 2016/17 and 2017/18 had commenced with staff, trade unions and other stakeholders on 15th January 2016 and would conclude on 15th February 2016.

The Portfolio Holder for Care Services noted that the Public Health Budget for 2016/17 and 2017/18 was indicative as the Public Health grant had not yet been confirmed for 2016/17, but that the draft budget had been developed based on the expectations that further cuts of at least 3.9% would be made. A Member reported that the Health and Wellbeing Board would be considering the proposal for the Council's Public Health Budget 2016/17 as part of the full range of health services, and that there was scope to identify if some non-statutory and non-mandated services could be delivered in alternate ways, such as through voluntary organisations.

In considering the report, the Director of Public Health was pleased to advise Members that there had been a levelling off in the amount of childhood obesity in Bromley in 2015/16 whilst the national trend continued to increase.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Public Health confirmed that the general efficiencies to be made across the Public Health Division would include wide ranging savings, such as making more effective use of online information and library services. Work was also being undertaken to consider how some elements of non-statutory services could be delivered in a different way, such as the provision of peer support for people with HIV through the HIV Specialist Nurse Service.

A Member underlined the need to identify how priorities such as mental health support for children and young people could best be delivered in future years. The Portfolio Holder for Care Services noted that Public Health continued to work with academies to support them in developing strong school nursing programmes, and that Dr Jenny Selway, Consultant in Public Health Medicine

was working closely with schools to provide training on mental health. The Director of Public Health reported that all secondary schools and some primary schools across the Borough had adopted a mindfulness programme in mental health and wellbeing. School governing bodies had also been directed to consider this issue, and a report on child and adolescent mental health would be considered at the meeting of Care Services PDS committee in June 2016.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Member's comments on the proposal for the Council's Public Health budget 2016/17 and 2017/18 and on responses to the consultation on the proposals with staff, trade unions and other stakeholders be noted.**
 - 2) The Council's Executive be recommended to:**
 - i) Note Members' comments on the proposal for the Council's Public Health budget 2016/17 and 2017/18 and on responses to the consultation on the proposals with staff, trade unions and other stakeholders.**
 - ii) Recommend to Council that the Public Health grant for 2016/17 and 2017/18 be utilised as proposed in Report CS16002.**
 - iii) Subject to Council's approval that the Public Health grant for 2016/17 and 2017/18 be utilised as proposed in Report CS16002, agree to give notice to relevant contracts.**
- B) CONTRACT AWARD FOR SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES - SCHEME 1 (3 PROPERTIES) - SUMMARY REPORT**

Report CS16017

The Committee considered the Contract Award for Supported Living Services – Scheme 1 (3 Properties) – Summary Report which outlined the process for the tendering of three learning disability supported living schemes.

At its meeting on 15th July 2015, the Council's Executive considered a Gateway Report on the provision of supported living services for eleven people with significant disabilities living in three properties, and projecting the need for these services to be maintained for future service users in order to reduce residential care placements. The report detailed the proposed commissioning strategy for the tendering of these services which placed an emphasis on ensuring the continued safety and wellbeing of vulnerable service users whilst achieving efficiency savings. The Council's Executive agreed that the schemes be grouped for tendering in order to drive best quality and pricing and that commencement of the procurement procedure be approved to enable award of contract in accordance with the Local Authority's financial and contractual arrangements.

The tender process was undertaken using ProContract, the Local Authority's electronic tendering system. As it was considered that there would be significant interest in providing this service, a two stage open tender procedure was used. A total of 106 suppliers expressed an interest in providing the service, of which 19 suppliers submitted compliant bids. Following evaluation of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, eight suppliers were shortlisted to go through to the second 'service specific' stage of the tender process. The second stage of the tender process was evaluated on the basis of Award Criteria questions in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the suppliers' submitted pricing schedules and were evaluated by a Panel of Officers on a split between finance (40%) and quality (60%). Interviews were also held with suppliers to clarify any issues identified in the tender submissions, which included representation from a service user.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) **Member's comments be noted; and,**
- 2) **The Council's Executive be recommended to note the Contract Award for Supporting Living Services – Scheme 1 (3 Properties) – Summary Report when considering the award of the tender.**

75 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006 AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

RESOLVED that the Press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the Press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

76 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF PART 2 (EXEMPT) REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL'S EXECUTIVE

- A) CONTRACT AWARD FOR SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES - SCHEME 1 (3 PROPERTIES) APPENDIX (DETAILS)**

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

The Meeting ended at 7.31 pm

Chairman

CARE SERVICES PDS COMMITTEE 9th February 2016

WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE CARE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Written Questions to the Care Services Portfolio Holder received from Justine Godbeer

Please could an update be provided on what has happened in Bromley since the closure of the Independent Living Fund on 30 June 2015 including information on the following:

1. How many ILF recipients were there in borough prior to closure and how much funding did LBB receive in the ILF grant Determination Fund devolved from central government for the period April 2015 - March 2016?

Reply:

There were 42 recipients of the ILF in the Borough prior to closure. The Local Authority received £701,398 full year funding from the ILF grant Determination Fund for the period April 2015 to March 2016.

2. How many former ILF recipients have received reassessments under the Care Act 2014 since June 2015, and of those who have been reassessed what percentage have experienced a decrease in the overall amount they were receiving through their joint LA/ILF care packages, how many have seen an increase in their care package amount and how many have been unaffected?

Reply:

All former ILF recipients have been reassessed under the Care Act 2014. Of these, 24% (10 recipients) have experienced a decrease but all have a support package to meet their assessed eligible needs. 32 support packages are unaffected.

3. Central government has now confirmed there will be further ILF monies devolved for 2016 - 2017. Has LBB yet received information about how much this will be?

Reply:

The Local Authority has not yet received any information about further ILF monies for 2016/17. The Department for Communities and Local Government was contacted on 13th January 2016 and confirmed that the grant would continue but did not advise when the Local Authority would be notified or how much it would be allocated.

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