

Decision Maker: Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee for pre-decision scrutiny
Care Services Portfolio Holder for decision.

Date: 19th June 2012

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: RESPIRE AT HOME CONTRACTS

Contact Officer: Andrew Crawford, Commissioning Manager (ECS Commissioning)
Tel: 020 8461 7446 E-mail: andy.crawford@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Lorna Blackwood, Assistant Director (ECS Commissioning)

Ward: Borough wide

1. Reason for report

The contracts for respite at home services expire on 31st August 2012 . The report requests agreement to an exemption from tendering of the contract for respite at home services for a period of 7 months to 31st March 2013.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Portfolio Holder agrees to an exemption from tendering to enter into a contract with:

- 2.1 Carers Bromley for a 7 month period from 1st September 2012 to 31st March 2013 for the provision of respite at home services as set out in para 3.2.
- 2.2 Bromley Mind for a 7 month period from 1st September 2012 to 31st March 2013 for the provision of respite at home services as set out in para 3.3.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Supporting Independence:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost : £126, 600
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: 1) 8249003388 (Bromley Mind); 2) 8170013542 S2127 (Bromley Mind [Carers Grant]); 3) 8170013542 S2130 (Carers Bromley)
 4. Total current budget for this head: 1) £101,750; 2) £29,450; 3) £100,204
 5. Source of funding: Education and Care Services Approved 2012/13 Revenue Budget
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: National Assistance Act 1948
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Approximately 300 individual carers access the respite at home services over the course of a year.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Respite at Home services are currently provided by two organisations, Carers Bromley and Bromley Mind.
- 3.2 The Carers Bromley contract has been in place since 2002 and provides two respite at home services as set out below. The services are partially funded by the Council and partially by the service user.
- 3.2.1 The respite at home services provides 8hr or 24hr respite at home sessions, giving carers a break and enabling them to pursue their own interests and maintain their personal health and wellbeing. Individuals pay a contribution directly to Carers Bromley of £10 for 8hr breaks and £15 for 24hr breaks.
- 3.2.2 The sitting service provides recruitment, training, monitoring and coordination of an 'approved list' of self employed sitters. The service is used predominantly for pre-arranged appointments, usually for between 1 - 3 hour breaks. Carers pay sitters directly with a recommended hourly rate of £5.50/£6.
- 3.3 The Bromley Mind contract has been in place in its current form since 2006, although there have been previous contract arrangements for dementia support services. It provides a range of respite at home services that can respond flexibly to service user needs as set out below. The services are fully funded by the Council – service users are not directly charged by the provider.
- 3.3.1 Sitting Service - support to people in their own homes and undertaking tasks such as providing personal care, preparing meals and generally responding to reasonable needs manifested by the user.
- 3.3.2 Weekend and overnight respite – providing overnight care, allowing carers to have a longer break away from home, with the person they care for supported in their own home.
- 3.3.3 Extra care at home – a specialised service supporting users with severe dementia which has progressed to an advanced stage who are unable to benefit from or be catered for in a day centre. It is also suitable for those with multiple disabilities whose needs can best be met by one-to-one care in their own home
- 3.3.4 Young onset dementia – support for people with early onset dementia to participate in community activities, or support in their own homes.
- 3.4 The respite market locally has been quite limited comprising primarily of block contracted residential respite at Kingswood House and these two respite at home services. The reliance on bed based respite has meant that there have been no real opportunities or incentives for providers to develop alternative provision and as a consequence these contracts have each been in place for over 10 years. Now that the residential block contract has ended there is an opportunity to develop alternative and more flexible approaches, particularly the use of direct payments and using the Bromley Shared Lives scheme for older people who require respite care.
- 3.5 The review of respite care in 2011 identified that carers wish to access a broad range of flexible respite services. Whilst the sitting services do offer a flexible model in offering breaks of varying lengths in a person's own home at times to suit the carer, the best way to provide flexible respite services for carers is to support them to make their own arrangements through use of a Personal Budget/ Direct Payment.
- 3.6 A 6 month extension to these two contracts was implemented in February 2012 as it is the intention to develop Direct Payments for respite care. Commissioners have been working with colleagues in Finance to establish the appropriate rate/ rates to cover the potential complexity of services which people would wish to secure. This will also require a formal policy change for the Council to implement direct payments, and the consequent charging, for respite breaks. The

charging issue will be included in a report to the Executive in January 2013 which will deal with other charging policy issues.

- 3.7 It will also be important to bring in Direct Payments in a way that does not destabilise the existing respite care services. In order to allow adequate time for these changes to be developed and implemented a further waiver is requested to allow a continuation of the contracts for respite at home services with the existing providers as an interim measure for 7 months until 31st March 2013.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal meets the Council’s priority to support independence by providing respite breaks for carers, thereby helping them to continue in their caring role, enabling vulnerable people to remain in the community and in their own homes.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All costs can be contained within the available 2012/13 approved budget as detailed below.

Provider	Element of service	2012/13 Budget £'000	Annual Cost £'000	Sep – Mar 13 Costs £'000
Carers Bromley	Respite manager		28.8	16.8
	Carers breaks		64.9	37.9
	Sitting service		6.5	3.8
	SUB TOTAL	100.2	100.2	58.5
Bromley Mind	Sitting service		101.8	59.4
	Extra care		6	3.5
	Weekend respite		5	2.6
	Young-onset		5	2.6
	SUB TOTAL	131.2	117.8	68.1
	TOTAL	231.4	218	126.6

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council has a duty to provide respite services to elderly clients pursuant to sections 21 and 229 National Assistance Act 1948 where this is not otherwise available to them. This means that having assessed that a client requires respite care the Council needs to consider whether or not they have sufficient resources and capacity to arrange for this themselves. If they don't then the Council should arrange it.
- 6.2 Rule 13 of the Code of Practice states that such an Exemption or Waiver may be exercised subject to the follow: *“Where the value of the relevant contract (or proposed contract) is over £100, 000, the authorisation requirement is: Chief Officer in agreement with the Director of Legal, Democratic and Customer Services and the Director of Resources and following Approval of the relevant Portfolio Holder, who have given their agreement “.*

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	