

CARE SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 23 June 2015

Present:

Councillor Judi Ellis (Chairman)
Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Ruth Bennett, Kevin Brooks, Mary Cooke, Hannah Gray,
David Jefferys, Terence Nathan and Charles Rideout

Linda Gabriel, Justine Godbeer, Tia Lovick and Peter Moore

Also Present:

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

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Wells.

Apologies for absence were also received from Catherine Osborn.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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

No questions were received.

8 QUESTIONS TO THE CARE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING

A total of 21 oral questions were received from Alan Brown, Mona Hope, Steven Coe, Sue Burgess, Tracey Hurran, Maria Penfold and Tracey Jones and these are attached at **Appendix A**.

9 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF CARE SERVICES PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2015, 29 JANUARY 2015, 25 FEBRUARY 2015, 4 MARCH 2015 AND 13 MAY 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Care Services PDS Committee meetings held on 21st January, 29th January, 25th February, 4th March and 13th May 2015 be confirmed.

10 MATTERS ARISING AND WORK PROGRAMME

Report CSD15070

The Committee considered matters arising from previous meetings and the work programme for the Care Services PDS Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year.

In discussing the Co-opted membership nominations to the Committee for 2015/16, Members noted that Sarah Dowding, Young Advisers Representative and her Alternate, Oliver Mullen had decided not to seek reappointment to the Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year and no further nominations had been received for the role.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The work programme for Care Services PDS Committee for the 2015/16 municipal year, the list of visits and matters arising be noted;**
- 2) The following non-voting Co-opted Members and their alternates be appointed to the Care Services PDS Committee for the 2015/16 Municipal year;**

Co-opted Member	Organisation	Alternate Member
Linda Gabriel	Healthwatch Bromley	Leslie Marks
Peter Moore	Mental Health Forum	-
Catherine Osborn	Carers Forum	Rosalind Luff
Justine Godbeer	Experts by Experience (X by X)	-
Tia Lovick	Living in Care Council	Jordan Barnes

- 3) The Care Homes Reference Group be reconvened for the 2015/16 municipal year with a membership of Councillor Ruth Bennett, Councillor Charles Rideout, Councillor Diane Smith, Leslie Marks, Angela Clayton-Turner and representation from the residents.**

11 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF CARE SERVICES PORTFOLIO REPORTS

The Committee considered the following reports for pre-decision scrutiny prior to decisions being made by the Care Services Portfolio Holder.

A) FINAL BUDGET OUTTURN REPORT 2014-2015

Report CS15902

The Care Services Portfolio Holder introduced a report outlining the final outturn position for the Care Services Portfolio for the 2014/15 financial year. This showed an overspend of £795,000 on controllable expenditure, which was a reduction from the last reported figure of an overspend of £932,000 based on activity at the end of

January 2015. A number of carry forward requests had been agreed by the Council's Executive at its meeting on 10th June 2015. These carry forward requests related to either unspent grant income or delays in expenditure where cost pressures would follow through into 2015/16.

In considering the report, the Chairman noted that on 4th June the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in-year budget reductions of £200m to be made by the Department of Health which would be targeted at Public Health budgets devolved to Local Authorities. The Head of Education, Care and Health Services Finance advised Members that consultation would be held with local authorities around how these budget reductions would be delivered, but that it was likely to equate to an in-year grant reduction of between £900k-£1m for Bromley's Public Health budget for 2015/16. The Chairman requested that the impact of changes to the Public Health budget to the Care Services Portfolio be considered at a future meeting of Care Services PDS Committee.

A Member underlined the importance of monitoring contracts that had been commissioned to external providers, and further information on the number of monitoring officers in the Education, Care and Health Services Department would be provided to Members following the meeting.

The Chairman led Members in thanking Officers within the Education Care and Health Services Department for the excellent work undertaken to significantly reduce the predicted overspend for the 2014/15 financial year which was caused by a number of budgetary pressures on the Department.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- 1) Note the overspend on controllable expenditure at the end of 2014/15 and any issues arising from it;**
- 2) Note a number of carry forward requests agreed at the meeting of the Council's Executive on 10th June 2015; and,**
- 3) Approve the Care Services Portfolio Outturn Report 2014/15.**

B) CARE SERVICES PORTFOLIO BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16

Report CS15903

The Care Services Portfolio Holder introduced a report setting out the budget monitoring position for the Care Services Portfolio based on expenditure to the end of May 2015. The controllable budget was forecast to be in an underspend position of £435,000.

Members were advised that on 10th June 2015, the Council's Executive had been requested to approve a number of carry forward requests for funding to be transferred into contingency for 2015/16. These carry forward requests related to either unspent grant income or delays in expenditure where cost pressures would follow through into 2015/16.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- 1) Note the latest projected underspend of £435,000 forecast on the controllable budget, based on information as at May 2015;**
- 2) Note the full year effect for 2016/17 of £241,000 as set out in Section 4 of Report CS15903;**
- 3) Agree the release the carry forward amounts held in contingency referred to in Section 5 of Report CS1590; and,**
- 4) Approve the Care Services Portfolio Budget Monitoring Report 2015/16.**

C) CARE SERVICES PORTFOLIO PLAN PRIORITIES JUNE 2015-MAY 2016

Report CS15901

The Care Services Portfolio Holder introduced a report providing an update on the progress of the Care Services Portfolio Plan 2014/15 and outlining draft Portfolio Plan priorities for 2015/16 for Members' consideration.

The Care Services Portfolio Plan 2014/15 had comprised 53 actions, 50 of which had been achieved with three actions requiring additional work in 2015/16. Key achievements included the support of 59 older people through the intensive personal care package to offer an alternative to long term residential care, supporting 100 people with the fast response personal care package to regain confidence after a hospital stay, and supporting 37,286 people at risk of developing a range of health issues to receive a Health Check since 2010. 85 children and young adults had participated in the travel training programme, 16 young people who had left care were being supported through university and higher education, and there had been 29,154 unique visitors to the Mylife website during 2014/15.

The draft Care Services Portfolio Plan 2015/16 aimed to support improved quality of life through encouraging high aspirations, maximising independence, promoting healthy lives and protecting the most vulnerable. Key actions to achieve this included work to ensure a smooth transition to the new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Framework, clearer information and advice to the carers of people with dementia, prevention of abuse of vulnerable children and young people and prevention of cardiovascular disease through the NHS Health Check Programme. It was also planned to carry forward three actions from the Care Services Portfolio Plan 2014/15 around the provision of locally relevant information and advice about care and support for residents, carers and families, working to recruit more in-house foster carers and minimising the potential for increased homelessness through prevention work

In considering the report, a Co-opted Member emphasised the need to provide locally relevant information and advice in a variety of ways including face-to-face contact and telephone, as vulnerable adult client groups were less likely to have access to internet services.

With regard to the aim to focus on preventing homelessness, a Member underlined the need for safeguarding measures to be put in place to support vulnerable tenants to remain in their homes and reduce the cost of evictions to the Local Authority. At the request of Members, further information on the preventative measures in place to reduce homelessness would be provided to Members following the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

1) Note the progress made against the actions in the Care Services Portfolio Plan 2014/15; and,

2) Agree the draft Care Services Portfolio Plan 2015/16.

D) GATEWAY REPORT TENANCY SUSTAINMENT SERVICES - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Report CS15914

The Care Services Portfolio Holder introduced a report reviewing the Local Authority's contract for tenancy sustainment services for domestic violence and making recommendations for the future commissioning of this service.

The Tenancy Sustainment Service benefitted single women and women with children who had been forced to leave their homes due to domestic violence and lived in one of the six refuges located across the borough which had been developed by Bromley Women's Aid and local registered social landlords, with support services delivered by Bromley Women's Aid in partnership with the Local Authority since 1975. The support services provided assisted residents to acquire the skills needed for a new tenancy, to avoid the risk of suffering further harm, to live independently in the community, to rebuild their lives and maximise their employment potential. An average of 60 women, plus their children, benefitted from the service annually, which reduced the need for more costly interventions by children and family teams in many instances.

The Tenancy Sustainment Service for victims of domestic violence was currently delivered by Bromley Women's Aid, which had been contracted by the Local Authority via a three year contract which had subsequently been extended for an additional two years via an exemption from tendering. The value of the contract when it started was £318,000 per annum which had reduced to £212,000 per annum when the extension option was exercised. The existing contract would expire on 30th December 2015.

In considering the report, the Vice-Chairman noted that the current contract and all previous contracts were awarded via exemption from tendering and that should the service be transferred to another provider, an amount of funding would be diverted to establish good partnership working between the two organisations to ensure that services continued to be provided seamlessly across the Borough.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- 1) Agree that a new contract to deliver a Tenancy Sustainment Service in Women's Refuges be tendered by Officers;**
- 2) Agree that the contract will be for the duration of three years starting from 1st January 2016 until 31st December 2018, with the option to extend for two further years; and,**
- 3) Delegate authorisation to extend the contract to the Care Services Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Assistant Director: Commissioning and Partnerships.**

E) GATEWAY REVIEW OF TENANCY SUSTAINMENT SERVICES

Report CS15915

The Care Services Portfolio Holder introduced a report reviewing the Local Authority's contract for tenancy sustainment services for tenants of social housing and making recommendations for the future commissioning of this service.

The Tenancy Sustainment Service provided support to tenants of social housing provided by registered social landlords in Bromley who were at risk of losing their tenancies. The main purpose of this contract was the prevention of homelessness. Referrals to the Tenancy Sustainment Service came from a range of sources including voluntary and statutory organisations across the borough, registered social landlords, Oxleas NHS Trust and via self-referral. Tenants accessing the service represented all vulnerable adult client groups, but the main groups were people with complex needs or mental health problems, older people with support needs and travellers. An average of 60 users benefitted from the service every quarter.

The Tenancy Sustainment Service for tenants of social housing was currently delivered by Hestia Housing and Support via a two year contract which had been awarded in 2011 following a full procurement exercise, and had subsequently been extended for two separate one year periods. The annual value of the contract was £77,947, with an additional £9,000 one-off contribution from the London Probation Service towards the cost of delivering the contract when it was extended in 2014. The service provided by Hestia Housing and Support had achieved Level A on the Quality Assessment Framework and had exceeded targets set on all the key performance indicators. Take-up of the service was significantly higher than with the previous provider, which also reflected the increase in demand for tenancy sustainment services following the introduction of a range of welfare reforms including the bedroom cap and universal credit, and Hestia Housing and Support had worked flexibly to support the maximum number of users. The existing contract would expire on 30th September 2015. Hestia Housing and Support was also commissioned to deliver Generic Tenancy Support services for the Local Authority. The annual value of the contract for this service was £274,880 and the existing contract would expire on 30th September 2015.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- 1) Agree the award of a one year contract for £352,880 to Hestia Housing and Support for the provision of a Tenancy Sustainment Service starting from 1st October 2015 and ending on 30th September 2016; and,**
- 2) Request Officers review the impact of welfare reforms on the demand for the Tenancy Sustainment Service and report their findings to Care Services PDS Committee in Spring 2016 with recommendations for future commissioning.**

F) ADULTS TRANSPORT POLICY

Report CS15911

The Care Services Portfolio Holder introduced a report outlining the response to a consultation and Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken on the proposed Adult Transport Policy for Bromley.

The Local Authority currently provided approximately 430 journeys per day through the Passenger Transport Service to adults with learning disabilities and older people who had been assessed as requiring day activities. Unlike many local authorities, Bromley did not have a policy relating to the transportation of adults, which meant that transport had been provided without regard to the individual circumstances of each user.

A report was considered at the meeting of Care Services PDS Committee on 26th June 2014 which outlined a proposal to introduce an Adult Transport Policy within Bromley to ensure Bromley residents were supported to develop and maintain their independence, that there was a fair and equitable way of assessing need and providing appropriate transport provision and that the Local Authority was able to comply with statutory duties and use resources effectively. It was requested that approval be given for a consultation to be undertaken on the proposed Adult Transport Policy which was subsequently agreed by the Care Services Portfolio Holder on 21st July 2014.

The consultation took place from December 2014 to March 2015 and sought feedback from a wide range of stakeholders including existing and potential service users, carers, key partners and local stakeholders. Of the submissions received from 142 individual respondents who were representative of the current users of adult transport services, 74% felt it reasonable to expect those who could travel on their own to do so, and 58% felt it reasonable to expect those who could travel independently to do so using their benefits or travel concessions. The responses from the face-to-face meetings and representative organisations largely mirrored the responses received from individual respondents, although only two of the six organisations felt it was reasonable to expect those who could travel on their own to do so. The proposed Adult Transport Policy for Bromley was updated to reflect concerns raised as part of the consultation and the Equalities Impact Assessment, including a review of the assessment process to ensure it was robust and reasonable, and in response to the introduction of the Care Act 2014.

In considering the report, a Member was concerned that 70% of respondents to the consultation exercise did not feel well informed about the policy, and underlined the importance of supporting service users to understand the policy and the full range of transport arrangements available to them. A Member noted that organisational responses to the proposed Adult Transport Policy had included the needs of people with degenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's. Bromley was working to become a dementia friendly community, and it was important for the proposed Adult Transport Policy to be linked in with other relevant strategies including the Dementia Strategy.

In response to a question from a Member, the Business and Planning Manager (ECHS) confirmed that a whole range of factors including mobility and the vulnerability of service users were taken into account during the assessment process. It was acknowledged that whilst some service users had a motability vehicle, they could not always drive their vehicle themselves and were reliant on the availability of a driver.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:

- 1) Consider the feedback from the consultation process on the proposed Adult Transport Policy for Bromley; and,**
- 2) Approve the introduction of the Adult Transport Policy attached to Report CS15911 with effect from 1st September 2015, and that it be linked to the Local Authority's Dementia Strategy.**

G) FOSTERING ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Report CS15905

The Care Services Portfolio Holder introduced a report presenting the Fostering Service Annual Report 2014/15 and an updated Statement of Purpose which was required to be produced by the fostering agency on an annual basis under the Fostering National Minimum Standards 2011.

The Fostering Service primarily worked to identify and support stable placements for looked after children and young people for whom foster care was the identified plan. As at 31st March 2015 there were 276 Bromley looked after children, 149 of which were placed with foster carers approved and supported by Bromley and 43 with independent fostering agencies. The remaining looked after children were placed in residential units, residential schools, supporting lodgings or were in semi-independent accommodation. The total number of fostering households approved by Bromley as at 31st March 2015 was 134 which was an increase of 14 households from the previous year. Priorities for the 2015/16 financial year included increasing placement choice by recruiting a diverse range of foster carers, to continue to provide quality training and support to foster carers, to support connected persons foster carers through a new pre-approval course, and to work closely in partnership with all stakeholders in order to deliver a quality service.

In considering the report, the Vice-Chairman noted that there had been 79 initial enquiries to provide either a mainstream or respite placement during 2014/15, and queried why this had not resulted in more new in-house foster carers. The Head of Social Care - Care and Resources explained that the most urgently needed foster care placements were for older children, sibling groups and children with special educational needs and disabilities, and that some potential foster carers were not suitable to provide this specialist and demanding care. Work to attract more Bromley foster carers was ongoing, with the aim of recruiting a further 24 fostering households during 2015/16.

In response to a question from the Vice-Chairman, the Head of Social Care - Care and Resources confirmed that no work was currently being undertaken to market test the Fostering Service.

The Care Services Portfolio Holder requested that the Bromley Pledge which had been launched by the Living in Care Council in May 2015 be included in the Fostering Service Statement of Purpose 2015/16.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to endorse the Fostering Service Annual Report 2014/15 and approve the updated Statement of Purpose for publication.

H) ADOPTION ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Report CS15906

The Care Services Portfolio Holder introduced a report presenting the Adoption Service Annual Report 2014/15, an updated Statement of Purpose and the Children's Guide which was required to be produced by the adoption agency on an annual basis under the National Minimum Standards 2014.

The Adoption Service was responsible for all adoption work undertaken by the Local Authority, supporting domestic, inter-country and step-parent adoption, birth parent counselling, post-placement and post-adoption support, and a range of intermediary services. Of a total of 41 children with an adoption plan and awaiting an adoption placement during 2014/15, 15 children were matched with an adoptive family, 16 children had their adoption plan rescinded and 10 children were actively being found an adoption placement as at 31st March 2015 and were carried forward into 2015/16. A total of 17 adoptive units were approved during 2014/15, with 14 adoptive units carried over into 2014/15 who were still awaiting a match as at 31st March 2014. Priorities for the 2015/16 financial year included working with South East Adoption Consortium local authorities to deliver two adoption activity day events, reducing the length of time children waited for adoption, ensuring policies and procedures were in place to support Foster to Adopt placements and applications to the Adoption Support Fund, continuing to develop the adoption website, and recruitment and retention in the Post Adoption Team.

In considering the report, the Chairman was pleased to note the high number of Bromley children and young people that had been adopted during the 2014/15 financial year. Follow recent Appeal Court Judgements, there had been a change of

emphasis from adoption to supporting children and young people to remain with their extended birth family where appropriate, which was expected to impact the number of adoptions in future as more children and young people were made subject to alternative Orders, such as Special Guardianship Orders.

RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to endorse the Adoption Service Annual Report 2014/15 and approve the updated Statement of Purpose for publication.

12 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The Committee scrutinised the following reports to the Council's Executive.

A) GATEWAY REPORT FOR LEARNING DISABILITY SUPPORTED LIVING SCHEMES

Report CS15913

The Committee considered a report outlining contracts relating to three learning disability supported living schemes located within the Borough which would expire on 24th April 2016.

The three supported living schemes were initially purchased with capital from the Strategic Health Authority as part of the NHS Campus Re-provision Programme, and were developed to meet the specific needs of adults with learning and physical disabilities. A total of 11 adults with significant disabilities were accommodated within the purpose built properties which were viewed as a key resource in meeting the existing and future demand for suitable accommodation for adults with learning disabilities in Bromley and reducing the need for residential care. The three schemes currently incurred combined expenditure of £908,308 per annum, and the co-termination of the schemes provided an opportunity for the Local Authority to group the contracts together for tendering with the aim of securing lower bids to deliver the service due to economies of scale, more efficient use of resources, and to create a more attractive tender opportunity for providers.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Members' comments on the report be noted;**
- 2) The Council's Executive be recommended to agree the grouping the schemes for tendering in order to drive the best possible quality and pricing; and,**
- 3) The Council's Executive be recommended to approve the commencement of the procurement procedure to enable award in accordance with the Local Authority's financial and contractual requirements.**

B) SOCIAL CARE INNOVATION GRANT - DRAWDOWN OF FUNDING

Report CS15904

The Committee considered a report requesting the release of £100,000 ring-fenced grant which would be transferred into the Local Authority's central contingency in June 2015, following a successful bid by the Local Authority to the Department for Education's SEND Innovation Fund which was intended to develop and test new ways of working within Children's Social Care to target the right level of resource in a way which was proportionate to need and sustainable into the future without additional funding resource.

The 2014 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identified significant increases in both the number of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and the complexity of need of these children and young people resident in the Borough who required an increasing level of support from specialist services. It was proposed to utilise the SEND Innovation Fund grant to support the Local Authority in managing this significant increase in demand for services by exploring and trialling new methods and timescales for the assessment of social care provision, such as for short break provision, and to develop a methodology to determine appropriate access to education, health and care services through a single assessment process. Social workers would be supported to work in a more focussed way, with less time spent undertaking assessments and more on intervention, and enabling more children and young people to utilise the Bromley local offer to meet their needs. There would be an emphasis on early identification of need, and on providing a timely response to requests for service intervention by parents and carers.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Members' comments on the report be noted; and,**
- 2) The Council's Executive be recommended to approve the release £100,000 from the central contingency into the Social Care budget for 2015/16.**

C) DIRECT CARE (LEARNING DISABILITIES) - CONTRACT AWARD

Report CS15909a

The Committee considered a report outlining work undertaken following agreement by the Council's Executive at its meeting on 11th February 2015 to approve Southside Partnership (Certitude) as the preferred provider for Adults with Learning Disabilities services.

At its meeting on 16th July 2013, the Council's Executive approved a request to commence market testing on the remaining in-house direct care services to modernise the existing provision and secure best value for money. These in-house direct care services were tendered via a competitive dialogue process in two lots which comprised Older Peoples services (Lot 1) and Adults with Learning Disabilities

services (Lot 2) for a contract award of five years, with an option to extend for a period of up to two further years. The competitive dialogue process enabled the Local Authority to ask suppliers for their proposals and solutions for future delivery models, and to negotiate on proposed models until a workable solution was defined. During the first stage of the tender process, providers had been invited to submit Expressions of Interest and a pre-qualification questionnaire. Following an evaluation against the set criteria, six providers tendering for Adults with Learning Disabilities services had progressed to the second stage. Southside Partnership (Certitude) was approved as the preferred provider for Lot 2 by the Council's Executive at its meeting on 11th February 2015, where it was agreed to commence service user and staff engagement in conjunction with the preferred provider and continue dialogue to work towards a final tender. Staff working across the Direct Care: Learning Disabilities service had been given the opportunity to meet with representatives of Southside Partnership (Certitude) during Spring 2015, and formal consultation with Local Authority staff and their representatives on the proposed commissioning had commenced on 26th May 2015 and would end on 9th July 2015.

Before discussing the report, the Committee received representations about the proposals from Glenn Kelly, UNISON Branch Secretary. Mr Kelly urged Members not to recommend the Council's Executive to agree the award of the contract for Adult Social Care – Learning Disabilities Services to the Southside Partnership as there was no evidence why the in-house service provision should not be continued. The Southside Partnership did not appear to have direct experience in delivering some of the services included within the tender, and the level of proposed savings from the award of the contract raised concerns around the ability of the new provider to supply a high quality service and to maintain both current staff numbers and their terms of employment. Mr Kelly underlined the need for the Local Authority to protect service provision for adults with learning disabilities who were amongst the most vulnerable members of the community and asked that Members support the continued delivery of the provision as an in-house service.

With regard to questions raised around the consultation process, the Assistant Director Commissioning and Partnerships advised Members that the proposal was to award a contract for the provision of services to a new provider, but that the Care Managers who assessed the eligibility of service users to access provision would remain employed by the Local Authority. The selection of Southside Partnership (Certitude) as the preferred provider for Lot 2, had enabled the Local Authority to commence service user and staff engagement in conjunction with the preferred provider. Work had also been undertaken with the preferred provider around the potential future development of service provision, including spot purchasing of additional services at a competitive rate without entering into long term block contracts, and a wraparound service linked to the Widmore 118 respite service where service users would be able to access day activities at no cost, even if they did not meet the eligibility criteria.

In considering the proposed hub model of provision, the Local Authority had been offering community-based day activities for adults with learning disabilities for several years, which included the delivery of services at the Cotmandene and Kentwood Centres alongside the existing day centre offer. The hub model would provide service users with the opportunity to access day activities in their local community

which did not necessarily have to be full-time facilities for the provision of day services, although it was recognised that adults with complex needs might require certain facilities to be in place to access a provision.

In response to a question from a Member, the Programme Manager – Commissioning confirmed that Southside Partnership (Certitude) had a wide range of experience in providing services to adults with learning disabilities. Southside Partnership (Certitude) currently supported the residents of three supported living schemes within Bromley, they also provided a range of day services across several London Boroughs and supported over 1,200 service users, 500 of which were supported through a hub model. Southside Partnership (Certitude) was involved in a range of schemes offering employment opportunities to adults with learning disabilities including a travel buddy programme and social enterprises.

A Member emphasised the need for the tendering process to appear transparent and be fully understood by all stakeholders, and it was agreed that further information regarding the tendering process and the number of providers who had participated in the tendering process would be provided to the Council's Executive to support the consideration of the Direct Care (Learning Disabilities) contract award. Another Member requested that details of Southside Partnership (Certitude) experience in delivering services also be provided to the Council's Executive.

A Member highlighted that all staff members should be supported to contribute to the formal consultation on the proposed commissioning which would end on 9th July 2015.

Councillor Kevin Brooks requested that his opposition to the proposed contract award be recorded in the minutes.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Members' comments on the report be noted; and,**
- 2) The Council's Executive be recommended to agree the award of the contract for Adult Social Care – Learning Disabilities Services to the Southside Partnership for a period of 5 years from 1st October 2015, with an option to extend for a further period up to, but not exceeding 2 years.**

13 QUESTIONS ON THE CARE SERVICES PDS INFORMATION BRIEFING

No questions had been received.

14 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.

**15 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE CARE SERVICES PDS
 COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 21ST JANUARY AND 4TH
 MARCH 2015**

RESOLVED that the exempt minutes of the Care Services PDS Committee meetings held on 21st January and 4th March 2015 be agreed.

16 DIRECT CARE (LD) - CONTRACT AWARD

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

**17 AWARD CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF STEP UP TO
 SOCIAL WORK POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

The Meeting ended at 9.25 pm

Chairman