

Decision Maker: PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND HEALTH WITH PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY FROM ADULT CARE & HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 30 June 2020

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Key

Title: AWARD OF CONTRACT: SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Contact Officer: Occupational Therapy Service Lead,
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Chief Officer: Kim Carey, Director of Adult Social Care

Ward: (All Wards);wide

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The Council has an existing contract with the Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) to provide a range of services to visually impaired adults in Bromley, which is due to end on 30th September 2020.
- 1.2 In January 2020, permission was obtained from the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health to retender this contract with a view to commencing a new contract from 1st October 2020 for a period of 4 years with option to extend by a further two years. The tender process has now been completed and this paper seeks to award a new contract.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 Adult Care and Health Policy & Development Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report and the accompanying Part 2 report and provide any comment.
- The Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health is recommended to:
- 2.2 Award a contract as detailed in the accompanying Part 2 report for the period 1st October 2020 to 30th September 2024 with the option to extend for a further two years.
- 2.3 Delegate authority for the extension to the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Assistant Director Governance & Contracts, the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care & Health.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: This contract promotes independence and safety for adults who are blind or partially sighted, or deaf blind.
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Corporate Policy

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

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost : £ as per Part 2 report
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost : £ as per Part 2 report
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Assessment & Care Management
 4. Total current budget for this head: £161k
 5. Source of funding: 2020/21 Adult Social Care revenue budget
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Personnel

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

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 1200, which is similar to the national average. The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) predicts a 21% increase in people with sight loss living in Bromley in the next 10 years.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 On 22nd January 2020, the Portfolio Holder approved proceeding to procurement for support to blind and partially sighted adults in Bromley. The tender opportunity was advertised in March 2020.

4. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE AND SUMMARY OF THE BUSINESS CASE

- 4.1 The main delivery elements of the contract are:
- the provision of specialist statutory needs assessments for visually impaired adults;
 - rehabilitation planning for adults with a visual impairment
 - maintaining the statutory register for people who are blind or partially sighted.

5 CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Detailed in the accompanying Part 2 report.

6 MARKET CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 A soft market testing exercise established that there were other potential voluntary sector organisations around London, providing services for the visually impaired. The market testing showed that local boroughs had, or were considering, contracts with three other voluntary sector organisations.
- 6.2 Many London boroughs provide the visual impairment service in house, but report challenges in recruiting and maintaining these members of staff. This is not something being considered by Bromley at this time, due to the reported recruitment challenges.
- 6.2 In line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Standing Order, it was necessary to tender the contract to ensure best value. No other organisations submitted a viable bid for the service or showed any interest in the tender opportunity. The Council may wish to consider awarding by exemption in the future.

7. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 7.1 An initial stakeholder event was held on 20th January 2020 to obtain feedback on the current service specification, with a follow up session on 18th February 2020. The suggestion of providing annual reviews for individuals who have used the service was suggested and has been included in the new specification. Clearer pathways for deaf blind assessments have also been achieved in the new specification, to ensure a timely service for individuals.
- 7.2 A survey was undertaken between 24 January and 24 February 2020. The overall response from 28 individuals was extremely positive regarding the current service provision, with only one respondent being dissatisfied with the service. Publicity was raised as an area which could be improved.

8. SUSTAINABILITY AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- 8.1 The recommendation is in alignment with the Council's vision of helping people to maximise their independence, to remain healthy and safe in their own home for as long as possible, and put wellbeing, choice and dignity at the heart of social health and care in Bromley.

- 8.2 The government is aiming to transform the way public services are planned, commissioned and delivered. The Care Act aims to make services more preventative, personalised and to deliver better outcomes for people who use services. There is a statutory requirement for the continuation of the sight impairment registration process and rehabilitation programmes.
- 8.3 The Bromley Joint Strategic Needs Assessment reported that the UK population is ageing, and it is projected to continue to age over the next few years with the fastest population increases in the numbers of those aged 85 years and over. This is the age group more at risk of eye disorders causing vision impairment. Sight loss impacts on many different levels and can be a traumatic event which can have an impact on health such as depression, risk of falls and isolation. Evidence suggests there is a strong link between sight loss and people's well-being particularly among older people who develop sight loss in later life.
- 8.4 No groups are considered to be disadvantaged by the proposals in this report. An EIA (Equality Impact Statement) has been completed.

9. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The Council's objective is to support people to maximise their independence, to remain healthy and safe in their own home for as long as possible, and put wellbeing, choice and dignity at the heart of social and health care in Bromley. The proposals in this report are in accordance with the Council's Building a Better Bromley priority of Supporting Independence.
- 9.2 The proposal is in accordance with the requirements set out in the Care Act 2014 and Schedule 2 of the Children's Act 1989.
- 9.3 The UK Vision strategy was revised and developed in 2013 and launched the 'seeing it my way' outcomes framework outlining ten outcomes that visually impaired people say are important to them. KAB has applied these outcomes as well as the sight loss pathway in the planning of health and social care needs. This ensures that the service enables people with a sight loss get the right support at the right time and see the right person. KAB has reflected these outcomes into key themes which are demonstrated in the Care Act and within the London Borough of Bromley's Care Services Portfolio Plan. These are:
- Emotional Wellbeing
 - Independent Living
 - Social Inclusion
 - Economic Security.

10. IT AND GDPR CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The recommended provider has been able to demonstrate that they will continue to operate in accordance with the requirements of GDPR legislation and going forward any provider will be subject to the same requirements.

11. PROCUREMENT RULES

- 11.1 Detailed in the Part 2 report.

12. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 Detailed in the Part 2 report.

13. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 There are no staffing implications for Bromley Council as all staff will be employed by the provider.

14. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

14.1 Detailed in the Part 2 report.

Non-Applicable Sections:	[List non-applicable sections here]
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]