

AGENDA ITEM No.7

Meeting of East Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board	Performance and Audit Committee
Held on	18 December 2015
Agenda Item	7
Title	Specialist Social Care Services Contracts
Summary This report gives the Performance and Audit Committee an overview of the arrangements for social care contracts.	
Presented by	Candy Millard, Head of Strategic Services
Action Required Performance and Audit Committee is asked to note the current arrangements for social care procurement and contracts.	

EAST RENFREWSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

PERFORMANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

18 December 2015

Report by Chief Officer

SPECIALIST SOCIAL CARE SERVICES CONTRACTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This report gives the Performance and Audit Committee an overview of the arrangements for social care procurement and contracts.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Note the current arrangements for social care procurement and contracts.

BACKGROUND

3. East Renfrewshire Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde have delegated certain functions (integrated functions) to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) as set out in the Integration Scheme. The IJB has the responsibility for strategic planning, resourcing and ensuring delivery of all integrated services. The Strategic Plan will determine the budgets allocated to each partner for operational service delivery in line with the Plan. Through these arrangements any contracts for health or social care would be entered into by NHSGGC or East Renfrewshire Council rather than the IJB. The majority of this activity is likely to be contracts for social care.
4. This report gives the Performance and Audit Committee and overview of current arrangements for social care procurement and contracts.

REPORT

Current Council Contract Standing Orders

5. The CHCP Director is authorised to enter into contracts on behalf of the council for where the contract value is up to £50,000. The procedure for tendering for these contracts is the Quick Quote system, where a minimum of five quotations are invited and assessed. There is provision in contract standing orders to lower the number of quotations where the requirement is of a particularly specialised nature and less than five potential sources of supply can be identified. Officers are required to secure best value in placing contracts in respect of goods, services or works.
6. For contract values in excess of £50,000 a formal tendering exercise is required. Tenders with a value between £50,001 and £100,000 may only be accepted by the Chief Procurement Officer, Chief Solicitor, or Principal Solicitor and those with a value in excess of £100,000 by the Chief Solicitor or a Principal Solicitor.

7. Where the Council regularly procures the same goods, services or works during the course of a year or a number of years, there is provision to tender for a Framework Agreement with one or more contractors, which sets out terms and conditions of future contracts between the Council and the contractor(s) appointed. The Council can also use national and regional frameworks for social care and other services.
8. Within the Contract Standing Orders the Director or Chief Social Work Officer can apply for an exemption from the procurement regime on a case-by-case basis due to the specialist nature of the services to be procured and/or the availability of appropriate providers.

Current Contractual Arrangements for social care

9. A national contract for the provision and purchase of care home beds is in place as result of a partnership between Scottish Care and Cosla. The HSCP and Council Legal Services are responsible for the local application of this Contract. All but one of the local care homes are signed up to this contract and the associated living wage agreement.
10. The Council has two main multi-supplier framework contracts secured through a competitive tendering process. The care and support framework and the care at home contract. The care at home contract is currently being retendered.
11. There are a number of multi-supplier frameworks secured through a national process overseen by Scotland Excel for fostering; secure care; children's residential and adult residential which the HSCP uses.
12. Additional local contracts are in place for Advocacy and Carer Support services. The contract for older people's day opportunities came to an end last year and a redesign of day opportunities is underway linked to the recent decision re Bonnyton House.
13. There are a number of long standing arrangements for services that were developed prior to the CHCP. These include Local Area Coordination and mental health services. A recovery focused redesign is underway in mental health and as part of this initiative a Public Social Partnership model will be adopted. In addition there is a long standing partnership with Jewish Care under a Memorandum of Understanding.
14. An exemption was sought for Women's Aid Services due to the sudden failure of the local provider. Advice was sought from Scottish Women's Aid as to how to re-provide this essential service as a matter of urgency and South Lanarkshire Women's Aid were asked to support the development of a local service.
15. Under Self-Directed Support legislation Option 2 gives the individual the right to choose their support (i.e. select their preferred care provider) and the CHCP has to make arrangements for that support on behalf of the supported person. The CHCP committee agreed that the Care Manager should inform the person about the contracted providers on the care and support framework but that the person would be free to use any provider subject to 2 exceptions: The price cannot be more than the relevant equivalence rate unless the person agrees to meet the cost differential from their own resources. The provider must be graded at level 3 (satisfactory) or above when inspected by the Care Inspectorate. A three way Individual Service Fund Service Agreement between the person, provider and CHCP has been drafted for staff to use when Option 2 is selected.

CONCLUSIONS

16. This report gives the Performance and Audit Committee an Overview of current social care contracts and procurement.
17. Contractual arrangements are in place for the main areas of social care expenditure. The majority of these have been secured through open Council competition or a national framework, thus evidencing best value.
18. There are a small number of long-standing partnership arrangements with valued local organisations, which require be reviewing, and where appropriate, put onto a grant or contractual footing.
19. European and national changes to procurement regulations and guidance are underway. This will be reflected in changes to East Renfrewshire Council Contract Standing Orders. A further report will be developed once the implications of these changes for social care contracting in East Renfrewshire are understood.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20. Performance and Audit Committee is asked to note the arrangements and current position re social care contracts.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contract Standing Orders

KEY WORDS

A report detailing current arrangements for social care contracts
Social care contracts, procurement, exception