

3rd June 2013**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, PERSONAL CARE AND SUPPORT
(YOUNGER ADULTS)****COMMISSIONING OF SENSORY IMPAIRMENT SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks approval to combine the commissioning of the Deaf Floating Support Service and Dual Sensory Impairment services to deliver greater efficiencies. The report also seeks to reduce the impact of Supporting People savings on the contract value for the Deaf Floating Support Service.

Information and Advice

2. Supporting People (SP) currently funds two services for people with a sensory impairment:
 - The Deaf Floating Support Service
 - One member of staff to co-ordinate volunteers and provide Dual Sensory Impairment Support services within the Adult Deaf and Visual Impairment Service (ADVIS).

Deaf Floating Support

3. The Deaf Floating Support service provides housing related support to twenty-eight Deaf service users at any one time by staff trained in British Sign Language. The current funding allocated to this service is £96,000.
4. On 30th June 2011 the Council approved changes to the Supporting People programme that would deliver savings of £10 million against the 2010/11 budget.
5. The savings in relation to Deaf floating support are planned to be delivered through a phased reduction during 2013/14, taking initial effect in October 2013 and a further saving to be delivered by April 2014. Following an assessment of the impact on Deaf floating support and the likelihood of a reduction in this service leading to a potential increase in the costs of other Nottinghamshire County Council services, the target saving has been reduced. This will enable the Deaf Floating Support Service to remain viable. There remains £74,000 funding available for this service.
6. This service is effective in preventing Deaf service users from accessing more costly social care services.

7. Financial modelling based on a lower hourly rate and a more innovative approach to service delivery has forecast that a newly procured service at the new funding level could provide support to twenty-five service users.

Dual Sensory Impairment Service (DSI):

8. There is £28,000 current Supporting People funding allocated to the Dual Sensory Impairment Support Service. This is a contract held by Nottinghamshire County Council which pays for a volunteer co-ordinator to work with people that are both Deaf and Blind.
9. The Dual Sensory Impairment Service has already achieved a saving of £10,000 and contributed to the overall savings achieved by the Adult Deaf and Visual Impairment Service (ADVIS).
10. In July 2012 the Adult Social Care and Health committee approved the team establishment for ADVIS including consideration of tendering this part of the service.
11. The Dual Sensory Impairment (DSI) team does not undertake assessment work but provides direct support to Deaf/Blind service users in the community. The focus of work is on prevention and other local authorities commission this via independent and voluntary sector organisations.
12. There are benefits in tendering the Dual Sensory Impairment and Deaf Floating Support services together. Not only will this provide for a more efficient procurement process for the County Council, but also provide for management and overhead savings for the successful provider from the award of a single contract. By tendering the DSI team there will be a reduction in management responsibilities for the current Team Manager of ADVIS, to align this with other single management teams.
13. It is recommended that the Deaf Floating Support Service be tendered in conjunction with the Dual Sensory Impairment services to ensure maximum efficiency. The service would be tendered during 2013 with the new contract operational from 1st January 2014.

Other Options Considered

14. Tender the Deaf Floating Support Service separately. However, this would not achieve the same level of efficiencies and economies of scale in tendering the services together.
15. Maintain the service in-house. This would require an increase in management hours in terms of a more permanent continuation of the Senior Practitioner and would therefore increase costs.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and

where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

17. Service users within the current Dual Sensory Impairment Service will continue to receive a service. There is no change to the criteria and there are no financial contributions to this service at present. Referral routes to the service will be via ADVIS and service users will continue to meet eligibility criteria in the majority of cases. There is currently a mix of Supporting People and mainstream funding and there will be no change in access to the service.
18. The Deaf Floating Support Service will reduce from supporting 28 people to 25 people in order to achieve the outlined savings.

Financial Implications

19. The combined value of funding available for a joint contract is £124,000. This includes Supporting People funding of £74,000 for the Deaf Floating Support Service; and Supporting People funding of £28,000; together with ADVIS funding of £22,000 for the DSI support service element.
20. This proposal will continue to meet the adjusted saving requirements in line with the reduction in Supporting People funding contained within the budget for 2013/14.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Adult Social Care and Health Committee:

- 1) Agrees to procure the Deaf Floating Support Service and the Dual Sensory Impairment Service together as a single tender exercise.

JON WILSON

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Constitutional Comments (LM 22/05/13)

21. The Adult Social Care and Health Committee has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KAS 22/05/2013)

22. The financial implications are contained within paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

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