



12th May 2014

Agenda Item: 12

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL
CARE AND HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

**RE-TENDER OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S INTEGRATED COMMUNITY
EQUIPMENT LOAN SERVICE (ICELS)**

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Committee on the requirement, resources and time-scales for the re- tender of Nottinghamshire's Integrated Equipment Loan Service (ICELS).
2. To seek approval to establish an additional temporary post to complete the associated work.
3. Request a further report on the preferred future model.

Information and Advice

Background and Context

1. On 9 June 2010 Cabinet approved the establishment of an Integrated Community Equipment Service for Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and NHS organisations across Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire County Council is the lead commissioner for the current contract which is in place to March 2016. The contract covers the provision, delivery and collection of equipment and the provider is the British Red Cross. Partners manage a pooled budget of £7,200,000 per annum.
2. ICELS provides a range of equipment to older people, adults and children with disabilities across Nottinghamshire. The equipment supports the independence of people who mainly live in their own homes, through maximising mobility and self-care. It assists both family and paid carers to support people with complex physical disabilities in their own homes. Ensuring equipment is in place quickly is therefore an important element to ensure timely hospital discharge, avoid hospital and residential care admissions, prevent falls and support reablement.
3. The range of equipment includes, for example, commodes, walking sticks, raisers, cushions to relieve pressure sores and more complex expensive items, such as hoists, specialist beds and mattresses. Demand for the service is rising as more people with increasingly complex needs are being supported to live in their own homes for a longer period of time.

4. Following review in 2013, the Partnership confirmed extension of the existing contract with the British Red Cross for the optional further two years up to 31st March 2016. There is now a legal requirement for the Council to undertake a re-tender of the service. The successful provider will be required to be able to deliver the service from 1st April 2016.
5. Time-scales:

Stage	Date
Finalise all tender documents	April 2015
Tender issued and providers complete their submissions	May 2015 – July 2015
Evaluation of submissions	August 2015
Selection of Preferred Provider	September 2015
Transition from current to new provider and/or model	October 2015 – March 2016
New provider operational	1 st April 2016

6. The Partnership Board have agreed that Nottinghamshire County Council should continue to be the lead commissioner and have agreed the Terms of Reference and governance structure. The Partnership have identified that additional resources are required to complete the work because of the complexities of the service itself, working across nine organisations and the associated operational processes and protocols that will need revising.
7. There is a significant amount of additional work to be completed between now and April 2015 in order to finalise the specification for the new contract. Partners initially want appraisals of alternative models that are being used across the country, benchmarking of costs with other similar services and a revised needs analysis to project future demand. Consultation will then be undertaken on the preferred options with service users, staff and other stakeholders. Agreement will then need to be sought through each agency's governance process, prior to finalising the specification in preparation to issue the tender in May 2015.
8. As demand for equipment is rising and partner's funding reducing, the new model for the service will need to find ways to maintain quality, whilst also enabling greater volumes of the right equipment to be in place for people when they need it. It is therefore important that initial preparatory work is undertaken well, in order to fully explore different options and innovations.

Other Options Considered

9. Completing the work within existing resources was considered, but is not felt to be achievable by partners. None of the partners had staff with spare capacity to undertake the work. A higher grade of post was considered, but not required, as the post will be managed and supported by an existing Commissioning Manager who also manages the ICELS Partnership Manager.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. All partners supported the approach of sharing this relatively small investment now in order to minimise the risks of putting the wrong model in place for the future and/or not completing the work on time. A similar resource was put in place for the last tender and was key to successful completion.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. Total cost for the partnership over 2 years for procurement, project management and commissioning officer resources is £111,272. This funding will be split across the ICELS Partnership by the same percentages of pooled budget contributions set out in the partnership agreement.
13. The total cost to the Nottinghamshire County Council over the two years will be £29,821 of which £14,460 will be off-set by use of existing resources to deliver elements of the work. The remaining £15,361 contribution to the additional Commissioning Officer resource required will be funded from Departmental Reserves.

Human Resources Implications

14. This report seeks approval to establish:
 - 1 FTE, temporary for 2 years, Commissioning Manager, Band C, scp 39-44, (£41,434 – £47,106) plus approved care user status.

Implications for Service Users

15. The proposal will enhance the process for individuals and their families/carers needing to return equipment.

Ways of Working Implications

16. Office space will be required at County Hall for the additional post for two years.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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

- 1) Notes the requirement to undertake a re-tender of Nottinghamshire's Integrated Community equipment Service and time-scales.
- 2) Approves the establishment of an additional 1 FTE temporary post for a two year period in order to undertake associated work.
- 3) Receive a further report on the preferred future model in November 2014.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 30/04/14)

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

Financial Comments

18. None

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Delegated Decision 7 April 2011 AC/2011/00019

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All