

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th May 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Efficiency, Improvement, and Transformation (EIT) Review of
Commissioned Carers and Independent Living Services

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that presented the findings of the Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee following its Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation review of Commissioned Carers and Independent Living Services.

It was noted that the majority of services within the scope of the review had been commissioned from ring fenced grants which had come to an end on 31 March 2011. Members were provided with background to the relevant grants and their strategic context.

It was explained that Stockton Council's Carers and Independent Living Strategies were developed in 2009 and 2010 respectively and encompassed the strategic intent of the Council. The Carers Strategy provided strategic guidance for the development and delivery of services for carers and ensured that there was a consistent approach to commissioning services. The Independent Living Strategy linked housing and housing related support services with health and social care services to enable people to achieve settled accommodation and to remain as independent as possible in the community.

Four strands of work were undertaken to test the commissioning arrangements for services for carers and young carers and for services that were intended to encourage independence and prevent people, whose circumstances made them vulnerable, declining in health and well-being and therefore requiring more intensive services

- Strand 1: strategic relevance: current services were assessed in terms of their relevance to key strategic aims against which the contribution of current services could be assessed.
- Strand 2: Service visits/ presentations: visits were carried out by Members and presentations were given by service providers to give members a greater insight into services.
- Strand 3: A comparison of cost: an analysis of self-assessments

completed by service providers was undertaken, including benchmarking comparisons where available.

- Strand 4: A quality assessment: a quality assessment framework was used to evaluate a range of quality measures including support planning, health and safety, safeguarding and protection from abuse.

It was clear from the work undertaken as part of the this review that the strategic context for service provision had changed since the relevant grant funding had come to an end and future commissioning needed to be in line with current strategic intent. The work completed in relation to cost comparison provided benchmarking information to support future commissioning, with a view to making efficiencies in terms of unit costs in a number of areas and had identified contracts where payment should be made in line with activity, rather than on a 'block' basis. Reviewing quality had provided information to inform the development of robust outcomes measures to be incorporated into future contracts.

The recommendations coming from the review were expected to form the basis of commissioning plans for ongoing service and support provision.

The overall aim of the review was to identify options for future strategy, policy and service provision that would deliver efficiency savings whilst sustaining/improving quality outcomes for Stockton residents. It was estimated that the recommendations would generate annual savings to the Council of £412k rising to £472k by 2014/15.

RESOLVED that:

1 separate commissioning plans, in line with strategic intent, are developed for:

- carers' services, as part of joint health and social care strategies for:
 - o Adults
 - o Young carers
- independent living services

2. that each commissioning plan will incorporate the following principles:

- Clarity about the range of services to be delivered in line with strategic objectives.
- All services are commissioned through new arrangements with contract duration of 3 years where possible (timescale to be determined in line with priorities; where contracts are joint with the NHS timescales and details of contracts need to be agreed).
- Contract capacity is reviewed; where demand is lower than

contracted capacity this is altered to reflect the demand

- Streamlined procurement processes and related contracts to identify priorities, accepting that delivery may still be through a number of providers but fewer than at present.
- Service specifications have tight outcome measures and payment is made in line with purposeful activity levels or other related measures.
- Benchmarking evidence is used where available to ensure that the unit cost for service delivery is competitive, recognising the degree of difference that arises from the needs of specific clients and groups of clients.
- Alternative commissioning models are considered where appropriate, for example partnership models.

3. That in services where there are a limited number of providers, that commissioners explore ways in which to encourage the market.

4. That work to support the developing voluntary and community services commissioning consortia is taken forward.

5. That where appropriate, work is undertaken with Providers to identify alternative funding streams, including payment from service users, and that providers are supported to develop self-sustaining service models.

6. That where current services are clearly aligned with health outcomes that they cease to be funded by the Council; these services will be reviewed and considered within the new NHS commissioning arrangements.

7. That domestic abuse service models are reviewed taking into account corporate strategies and the recommendations of the EIT review of domestic violence (methodology to be determined). This will involve working with partners to develop appropriate pathways for people affected by domestic abuse.

8. That the ongoing work stream, to continue to develop and increase the use of assistive technology, incorporates requirements for community alarm services.

3. Reasons for the Decision

As part of the Council's EIT Programme, the Committee has undertaken the review with the aim of identifying options for future strategy, policy and service provision that would deliver efficiency savings whilst

sustaining/improving quality outcomes for Stockton residents.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Beall declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation – Review of Commissioned Carers and Independent Living Services as he was Chairman of the Eastern Ravens Trust Board, which was referred to in the report.

Councillor McCoy declared a personal, non prejudicial interest in the item entitled Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation – Review of Commissioned Carers and Independent Living Services as she served on the Shopmobility Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday 25 May 2012

Proper Officer
21 May 2012