

AGENDA ITEM 6

Corporate, Adult Services and Social Inclusion Select Committee

12th July 2011

EIT REVIEW OF COMMISSIONING OF CARERS AND ILS UPDATE REPORT

SUMMARY

Members are asked to consider the three documents already circulated together with issues raised in this report and agree the actions over the summer period leading to a consideration of recommendations at the Committee's September meeting.

DETAIL

1. The essence of work to be undertaken over the next 2 months is to investigate whether the existing portfolio of commissioned services meet the requirements of users and the Council. In this respect three main criteria apply:-
 - Does each contract provide a quality service of a reasonable standard?
 - Do they fit with future strategy of the Council in supporting people to live independently and have suitable priority?
 - Do they provide value for money?

The next 3 paragraphs deal with each of these criteria.

2. The Quality Standards Template previously distributed has already been issued to many of the Providers and it is proposed that it be issued to the rest for return by mid August. Subject then to checking by the Project Team that the self assessment is reasonable, the outcome would be submitted to Committee alongside other evidence.
3. Further work is required on the Strategic Relevance Framework distributed. This work would be undertaken by the Project Team in August by preparing the initial document that would become the Commissioning Plan for Independent Living Services and act as the basis of future commissioning as well as confirming the existing commissioned services meet future requirements. This is not information that would be initially sought from Providers but started internally for further consultation with them.
4. All Providers would be asked to complete the Value for Money Assessment, also distributed, and the results would again be verified by the Project Team and summarised for the Committee. Alongside this work, Internal Audit would undertake a regular audit of the funding.
5. It is not proposed that a scoring mechanism be put into place as each commissioned service would need, in a sense, to jump the three hurdles separately. Each must be consistent with the Strategy of the Council and be a priority and then be of sufficient quality and then present value for money. Comparisons on the VFM side of this may well be sought.

6. Also, during the next two months it is proposed that work be done to ensure consistency of approach in the commissioning process and the establishment of contracts.
7. Members had also suggested that Providers' views be sought by either presentation to the Committee and/or visits. It is suggested that the following services/organisations might be suitable for either approach:-
 - SBC Care Call
 - Independent Live Centre, Tithebarn
 - Bridge House and/or St James' and/or Harbour as reflective of specialist services.
 - An existing Extra Care Provider and/or the recently appointed one for Park View
 - Shopmobility
 - Carers Services, two of which have already asked for involvement.
 - Representative RSLs perhaps picked at random

These visits or presentations are possibly best arranged during September alongside the desk top work.

8. Members are asked to consider the above as a possible approach to work over the next couple of months and agree actions.

Contact Officer:	Tony Beckwith
Post Title:	Head of Support Services, CESC
Telephone No:	01642 527052
e-mail address:	tony.beckwith@stockton.gov.uk