

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 10 June 2013

ITEM 7(i)

Title: Changes to Learning
Disability Supported Living
Services

Portfolio(s): Adult Social Care

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Lesley Spillard

Report from Directorate: Community Services

Report Author: Jacqui Old, Head of Adult Social Care (Tel: 0191 643 7317)

Wards affected: All Wards

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on changes to supported living services for people with a learning disability and the consultation that has been undertaken so far.

A further period of consultation on the implementation of the changes is currently underway with a range of interested individuals.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) notes the content of the report in relation to the changes to learning disability supported living services in North Tyneside; and
- (2) grants delegated authority to the Head of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Elected Mayor to consider a report on the outcome of the further consultation and to implement changes that are informed by the consultation process.

1.3 Forward plan:

It has not been practicable to give 28 days notice of this report. However, it is required to be considered without the 28 days notice being given because of the urgency to progress the consultation programme and to expedite the subsequent decision making process.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

This report relates to the 2012 – 2015 Council Strategic Plan, Priority 1; Sustaining our front line Council services within the Council, but only spending what we can afford.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

1.5.2 At its meeting on 11 June 2012, Cabinet agreed to a procurement exercise for the invitation of tenders for a new supported living framework agreement for people with a learning disability or a mental health problem. This work has been completed and we now have a new framework agreement in place with 27 suppliers of care / support in supported living services.

1.5.3 The previous framework agreement ended on 31 March 2013 and we are now using interim arrangements pending the outcome of reviews of individuals and individual services under the locality commissioning model.

1.5.4 Locality Commissioning Model

1.5.5 The Cabinet proposal during the budget setting process for 2013/16 agreed a number of proposals as part of the overall Council Change Efficiency and Improvement (CEI) Programme.

1.5.6 Business case A15 related to the introduction of locality commissioning arrangements for independent supported living services in North Tyneside. This related primarily to people with a learning disability but also included some mental health services as well.

1.5.7 The rationale supporting this proposal was:

- Smarter commissioning of supported living services;
- Seek opportunity to maximise use of shared care arrangements, overnight care and assistive technology;
- Seeking opportunity to use non-traditional services to meet people's needs;
- Use the new framework agreements to increase service quality and responsiveness of provision; and
- Increased choice and control for individuals by extending the number of suppliers available on the new framework

1.5.8 The overall efficiency attributed to Adult Social Care in the CEI programme is £4.4m for 2013/14. The efficiency identified within this proposal for changes to independent supported living services is £0.5m for 2013/14 and £0.5m for 2014/15.

1.5.9 As part of these arrangements Adult Social Care need to review the eligible needs of service users in the supported living services. The involvement of service users and carers is integral to this process and would happen as part of standard social work review processes. Adult Social Care also engages with service users and carers at the end of the review process to talk through the outcomes of the review, the impacts for them and then identify and go through the options that are available.

1.5.10 Consultation

1.5.11 A key element of the budget decision making process was engagement and consultation with a wide range of individuals, groups, providers and partners. In the period December 2012 to February 2013 Adult Social Care held in excess of 40 consultation events that were attended by over 550 people.

- 1.5.12 Within this, there were nine specific learning disability consultation meetings held that were attended by 105 individuals.
- 1.5.13 The consultation focussed on a number of proposed changes to learning disability services and this included changes to supported living services via the introduction of a locality based commissioning model. There were common themes, as follows, from the feedback on this proposal:
- general support as people understood that this would not require any changes to existing tenancies and therefore people were not being asked to move from their homes;
 - Providers expressed concerns about existing contracts and the impact on small organisations. Customers and carers were concerned about the continuity of service provision and the relationships they had built up with existing care staff;
 - People were keen to learn more about the possibilities of assistive technology but wanted to let the Authority know that technology can only achieve so much and members of support staff are also needed;
 - People wanted to be assured that any changes to how care and support was delivered would take into account individual needs and ensure that risk was appropriately assessed and managed.
- 1.5.14 As part of the implementation phase, a number of carers of people in supported living services have aired their concern that they have not been directly involved in the consultation process and are opposed to the reviews proceeding. Whilst the Authority can demonstrate an active engagement / consultation process throughout December 2012 to February 2013 it is important that we have the support of the carers and actively engage with them through some focussed consultation in June 2013.
- 1.5.15 Next Steps
- 1.5.16 Adult Social Care is undertaking a series of consultation sessions and feedback questionnaires. All users and carers will be invited to participate and a programme has been designed to ensure we get as full an involvement as possible.
- 1.5.17 The consultation will focus on the fact that Council has made a decision as part of its budget setting process and the efficiency is still required to be made, but that we want people to contribute to:
- How the changes might be implemented;
 - How we actively engage with users and carers as part of the process;
 - How users and carers can have a choice in who their care provider is to ensure continuity of care;
 - How we can ensure service quality is integrated into the process; and
 - If people do not agree, what alternatives can be considered to achieve the identified savings.
- 1.5.18 It is important we do not lose the momentum of this work and the outcome of the consultation exercise will need to feed into an outcome report which will inform the implementation phase of the project.
- 1.5.19 It is recommended that the Head of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Elected Mayor receives a report on the consultation and is authorised by Cabinet to agree the implementation phase.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may approve the recommendation as outlined in paragraph 1.2 of this report

Option 2

Cabinet may not approve this recommendation

Option 3

Cabinet may approve the content of the report but require a further report back to Cabinet for a decision on implementation following the consultation exercise

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

If Cabinet approves the recommended option, Adult Social Care will be able to expedite the implementation phase of the project with minimal delay.

If the preferred option is not approved, Adult Social Care will not be able to progress the implementation phase and this would have a negative impact on the CEI efficiency target and would place pressures elsewhere in the service.

1.8 Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report.

1.9 Contact officers:

Scott Woodhouse, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Learning Disability and Mental Health – Tel 643 7082.

Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager – Tel 643 7038

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the offices of the author:

- (a) Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report – 11 June 2012, Procurement Exercise for the establishment of Framework Agreements for Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Services
- (b) Appendix 2 – Business case A15 – Locality commissioning arrangements for independent supported living services

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

Within the Authority's CEI Programme there is an efficiency of £500k for 2013/14 and £500k for 2014/15 against the locality based commissioning model. The £500k is 2013/14 is based on a 6 months effect of the introduction of the proposal during the financial year.

If there are delays in the implementation of the programme this would have an impact of approximately £80k for each month's delay.

This is part of an overall strategy for efficiencies in Adult Social Care. If there are delays or this is not implemented this would place pressures elsewhere in the system or on other services.

2.2 Legal

There is a legal duty to ensure there is adequate consultation in place as part of any proposals to changes in services.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Internal consultation has taken place with the Lead Member for Adult Social Care

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

There has been extensive external consultation as part of the Council's budget setting process and feedback from individuals / groups etc has been fed into the process.

Now that Council has agreed the budget and the project for review of supported living services is to start, further consultation with users, carers, providers is planned. This is set out in section 1.5 of this report.

2.4 Human rights

The actions contained in this Cabinet Report support the following Human Rights principles:

- Right to respect for private and family life
- Protection from discrimination

2.5 Equalities and diversity

This report sets out the positive actions the Council, Health Agencies and other Partner Agencies are taking to meet the needs of people with a learning disability.

2.6 Risk management

A risk management approach will underpin the reviews that are undertaken with individuals receiving the service by the Community Learning Disability Team. This will

identify risks to individuals and their independence and the support plan will identify services / support to mitigate / minimise those risks.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability implications directly arising from this report

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive x
- Strategic Director(s) x
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) x
- Chief Finance Officer x
- Monitoring Officer x
- Strategic Manager, Policy Partnership, Performance and Communication x

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