

Report of Deputy Director of Adult Social Care Commissioning

Report to The Director of Adult Social Services

Date: 24th July 2014

Subject: Request approval for a contract variation under Contracts Procedure Rule (CPR) 21.6 and 21.7 to vary the contract awarded to Carers Leeds from 1st April 2014. The value of the contract is to be varied by an increase of £149.750 per annum from 1st October 2014 in order to incorporate the service provided by Alzheimers Leeds to carers of people with dementia.

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Council (LCC) carried out a Market Sounding Exercise (MSE) in December 2013 to which there were four responses but it concluded that other than the response received from a lead organisation with sub-contracting arrangements of existing providers led by Carers Leeds, there was no capable agency able to deliver the services. During the period since the MSE, ASC commissioners have developed the model of a generic single gateway to support unpaid carers. A contract has been awarded to Carers Leeds, an organisation already providing services in Leeds.
2. At the time that the contract for the combined service was advertised under the MSE the contract with Alzheimers for dementia carers support had 15 months to run, and so Alzheimers Society did not join the consortium with Carers Leeds that expressed an interest in tendering for the service under the MSE. Nevertheless they co-operate as partners with Carers Leeds in delivering support to carer of people with dementia and have a part-time worker based in Carers Leeds' premises.
3. ASC's vision for future support for carers is that all adult carers should have a single point of contact for advice information, and support services and the combined contract has been awarded from 1st April 2014. The intention now is to locate the specialist service for dementia carers within the single point of contact carers service. Alzheimers will provide dementia carer's support as a subcontractor of Carers Leeds in the same way as Touchstone and Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust have already done for the provision of support to mental health carers and generic Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) carers.

Recommendations

1. The Director of Adult Social Services is recommended to approve the contract variation of Contracts Procedure Rule (CPR) 21.6 and 21.7 to vary the contract awarded to the consortium of organisations led by Carers Leeds. The variation is within the scope of the original contract and does not materially affect or change the scope of the original contract or the contract term. The value of the contract for the consortium led by Carers Leeds will be increased by £149,750 per annum from 1st October 2014 in order to incorporate the service provided by Alzheimers Leeds to carers of people with dementia.
2. The Carers Commissioning Officer will ensure that the necessary action is taken to vary the Carers Leeds contract so that Alzheimers becomes a sub-contractor to Carers Leeds and enters into a contract to deliver dementia carers support services to Carers Leeds. When the two organisations have completed their negotiations and entered into a subcontracting relationship Leeds City Council will vary the main contract with Carers Leeds with effect from 1st October 2014.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to report the outcome of the review of dementia carers support service provided by the Alheimers Society and seek approval for the recommendation for future commissioning of the service.
- 1.2 The Adult Commissioning Board approved the recommendation that the service be varied into the contract with Carers Leeds who lead the Leeds Carers Support Service (LCSS) partnership for the provision of support to all adult carers and that the contract should be varied by adding £149,750 per annum to that contract.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Leeds City Council (LCC) ASC has commissioned the Alheimers Society to provide a carers support service for carers of people with dementia for many years. The current service contract comes to an end on 30th September 2014 and this service review has been to assist ASC in determining the value of the service and to decide whether to continue to commission the service. A copy of the service review report is available.
- 2.2 The dementia carers service provides advice, information and support to dementia carers across the city. The staff and services are based at the Society's office at Armley Grange in Leeds 12 from where the telephone contact point operates. One to one support is given in carer's own homes, in several carers support groups and through the nineteen Dementia cafes and singing groups which have been established all over the city in a variety of buildings.
- 2.3 The review was carried out by the completion of a service review template by the service, a questionnaire was sent to 16 stakeholders organisations nominated by Alheimers; a questionnaire was sent to 100 carers who had used the service in the last twelve months and staff members were interviewed by the reviewing officer. The feedback from six stakeholders and forty-four service users indicated that the services under review met its aims and objectives to a very high standard and provides comprehensive, knowledgeable and empathetic service.

3 Main issues

3.1 Reason for Contracts Procedure Rules

- 3.1.1 When the contracts for four other carers support services in Leeds were coming to an end in 2013, ASC carried out a MSE to combine all those services into one which will provide a single point of contact for generic advice and information with specialist support workers for carers with more complex caring situations or needing more intensive support. This service is provided under a partnership of existing providers (LCSS) led by Carers Leeds. The contract for the single service took effect from 1st April 2014 and the service was launched on 10th June 2014.
- 3.1.2 The Leeds Carers Support Services consortium comprises Carers Leeds, Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust and Touchstone. One of the original four organisations withdrew from the consortium and that worker was transferred to Carers Leeds.
- 3.1.3 ASC took this course of action in order to maximise the benefit to greater numbers of carers from the funding available, using the resources more flexibly and taking out duplication in the services previously provided. In addition, the new structure will help to meet the challenge of the Care Act which entitles a much larger number of carers to seek support from ASC. The same course of action is proposed for the dementia carers service,

in order for the single point of contact for support for carers to be fully inclusive, and also so that further efficiency gains may be made for dementia carers.

- 3.1.4 Both Carers Leeds as the LCSS lead agency and Alzheimers Society are in agreement with this proposal and have already had some informal discussions together. The LCC contract with Carers Leeds includes provision of their service to dementia carers and LCC Legal Services have advised that their contract can be varied to include the funding for the dementia carers service with Alzheimers joining the LCSS consortium and having a sub-contract with Carers Leeds in the same way as the other two agencies who are part of the LCSS partnership already.
- 3.1.5 The Alzheimers service has very strong links with the Memory Services (MS), the Younger People with Dementia Support Team and Consultant Psychiatrists and the bulk of its referrals come from these sources directly or indirectly. The service makes referrals back to the Memory Services and other community health teams. This close working relationship arises from the organisation's expertise in this particular condition at national as well as local level and their credibility with the NHS is of great benefit to carers in getting their voice heard in support planning for the person they care for.

Consequences if the proposed action is not approved

- 3.2 The ASC commissioning strategy for carer's support services is that all adult carers should have a single point of contact for a service which can provide generic advice, information and support activities for those carers who require this, as well as specialist longer-term support from staff with particular expertise in certain caring situations or medical conditions for the smaller number of carer who need that. This vision is written into the service specification for the consortium contract which was awarded from 1st April 2014.

Advertising

- 3.3 A market sounding exercise for an organisation or consortium of organisations to provide the new combined carers support service was advertised in a market sounding exercise in 2013. At that point all the current carers support services except Alzheimers Society were part of the successful tender, mainly because the Alzheimers contract still had 15 months left to run.

4 Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Carers have been involved in the service review of the current service and have told ASC how much they value the carers support service and want it to continue and expand, if possible. Carers feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Carers support workers were described as extremely well-informed, always available and responsive.

Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 A screening tool has been completed and can be seen at Appendix 1.

Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3 Carers are recognised as a vital element for meeting the needs of people who need care and support and in the achievement of 'Better lives for people through housing, care and support'. Their contribution to meeting the dementia challenge is also highlighted in the Leeds Dementia Strategy.

Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4 The current contract was awarded in 2011 with a 10% cost reduction. The funding for 2013/14 is £149,750 and has not increased since 2011/12. The management element of the cost is 15% (full cost recovery).
- 4.4.2 On a simple mathematical calculation based on number of client contacts (3239) in 2012/13, the cost of this service is £44.22 per contact, which is very competitive by comparison with similar services provided by other similar services within the partnership. By working as part of the partnership and sharing of facilities the dementia service should be able to further increase the number of carers it helps.

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 This decision is a Significant Operational Decision and as such is not subject to call-in. The report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.
- 4.5.2 Legal Services have advised that the variation is possible because it will not materially change or extend the scope of the contract – because dementia support is already in the contract. Their view is that it will not change the economic balance of the contractor and LCC because the value is less than 20% of the total value of the contract.

Risk Management

- 4.6 The risk of challenge to the variation requirements are low because the carers consortium service specification includes the provision of support to dementia carers and Alzheimers is a specialist service provider for the Leeds area.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The commissioning strategy approved by Adult Commissioning Board will be achieved by the joining in of the dementia carers support service with the other organisations in the combined carers support service, so that all adult carers have access to support through a single point of contact leading to generic and specialist support for those carers who require it. Alzheimers are the local organisation with the skills and expertise to continue to deliver this specialist support for carers of people with dementia.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Director of Adult Social Services is recommended to approve the contract variation of Contracts Procedure Rule (CPR) 21.6 and 21.7 and vary the contract awarded to the consortium of organisations led by Carers Leeds. The variation is within the scope of the original contract and does not materially affect or change the scope of the original contract or the contract term. The value of the contract consortium led by Carers Leeds is to increase by £149,750 per annum from 1st October 2014 in order to incorporate the service provided by Alzheimers Leeds to carers of people with dementia.
- 6.2 The Carers Commissioning Officer will ensure that the necessary action is taken to vary the Carers Leeds contract so that Alzheimers becomes a sub-contractor to Carers Leeds and enters into a contract to deliver dementia carers support services to Carers Leeds. When the two organisations have completed their negotiations and entered into a subcontracting relationship Leeds City Council will vary the main contract with Carers Leeds with effect from 1st October 2014.

7 Background documents ¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.