

Report from the Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning

Report to the Interim Director of Adult Social Services

Date: December 11th 2014

Subject: To seek approval from the Interim Director of Adult Social Services to utilise the second of two 12 month extension periods of the existing 3+1+1 year contract with Leeds Vision Consortium (LVC) from April 1st 2015 to 31st March 2016, in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) 21.1 and 21.2

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

Summary of main issues

1. LVC is a collaboration between: Action for Blind People, one of the largest charities in the UK providing confidential support for blind and partially sighted people in all aspects of their lives; SENSE a national charity providing support and information for people affected by Deafblindness; and Wilberforce Trust, a Yorkshire based charity providing domiciliary care, support and rehabilitation services to individuals with sight loss living in their own homes.
2. LVC was awarded a three year contract plus two 12 month extensions in January 2011, following a procurement exercise to provide a citywide sensory loss service for people who are blind, partially sighted or have dual sensory loss (DSL).
3. The current value of the contract is £517,352. LVC is funded by Adult Social Care (ASC) £500,000 and a Section 256 Agreement between Leeds City Council (LCC) and the South and East Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) £17,352.
4. The original contract term was from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014 with the option to extend for a further two twelve-month periods. The initial three years of the contract award expired on 31st March 2014 and the first extension was evoked during 2014/5. ASC would like to utilise CPRs 21.1 and 21.2 to extend LVC's

contract using the second of two 12 months extensions from April 1st 2015 to March 2016.

Recommendations

5. The Interim Director of Adult Social Services is recommended to extend the contract for LVC, utilising the second of two 12 month extensions starting from April 1st 2015 to 31st March 2016.
6. The Commissioning Manager, Adult Social Care, will implement this decision directly after it has been taken, subject to the necessary clearance process being completed, by issuing the relevant contract extension documentation to the provider.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Interim Director of Adult Social Services to utilise the second of two 12 month contract extension period of the existing 3+1+1 year contract. LVC's current contract expires on 31st March 2015.
- 1.2 A procurement exercise will be undertaken during 2015 with the intention to award a single contract provision for Blind and Partially Sighted People from April 1st 2016.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Services for Sensory Impairment were previously contracted to Leeds Society for Deaf and Blind People (LSDBP) who provided two sensory impairment services: one for Blind, Partially Sighted or Dual Sensory Loss previously based at Shire View and for Deaf and Hearing Impairment Services which was located at Centenary House.
- 2.2 ASC placed the blind and partially sighted services out to tender in June 2010 and, the contract commenced in June 2011. The consortium comprises of Action for Blind People (lead agency) a national charity providing practical help and support to blind and partially sighted people of all ages; SENSE, a national charity supporting and campaigning for people living with dual sensory loss and deafblindness; the Wilberforce Trust is a Yorkshire based charity providing support and housing for people affected by Sight Loss.
- 2.3 LVC provides a range of services that include, emotional support for newly diagnosed adults at the eye clinic based at St James and Seacroft Hospitals, assistive technology, guide communication, employment and training services, domiciliary care, satellite social groups, a volunteer service, Independent living, health and wellbeing as well as an advocacy and support service for young people in transition.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 LVC services continues to support some of the city's most vulnerable citizens in providing a vital link in addressing the social, emotional and independent living needs of people with sight loss.

- 3.2 During 2013/14, 1345 clients were referred to LVC services, 870 emotional support sessions were undertaken with newly diagnosed individuals at the Eye Clinic at St James Hospital; 105 new clients were supported to retain or gain employment when faced with sight loss; six 10 week 'Living Well with Sensory Loss' programs were completed and 50 volunteers were recruited and trained to facilitate eleven locality based social groups.
- 3.3 The Independent Living Service (ILS) offers information, advice and practical solutions to promote independent living through the many stages of sight loss. The ILS supported 333 new clients during 2013/14.
- 3.4 The Guide Communicator Service (GCS) offers one-to-one support to people with dual sensory loss to enable effective communication and relieve social isolation by escorting users to destinations of their choice. From April 2014, additional weekly hours have been added to this service to enable more people to optimise their independence.
- 3.5 During 2013/14, LVC recruited and trained 50 volunteers who contributed 12,694 volunteering hours to LVC services.
- 3.6 During 2013/14, statistical information evidenced Black and minority ethnic groups comprised 14% of LVC total service users (for whom data was collected), 48% of respondents were male, 52% female and 45% of service users were aged over 65.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 LVC consults bi-monthly with stakeholder groups which are comprised of service users, independent individuals and representatives from Sight Loss agencies.
- 4.1.2 The provider undertook service user consultations during April, June and October on various aspects of the service.
- 4.1.3 The Executive Member for Adult Social Care was consulted at Members Brief on December 4th regarding this decision.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity and Cohesion Impact screening accompanies this report and is attached as Appendix 1. If the contract is extended an Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Assessment will be undertaken which will assist in future decision making about this service.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 LVC contributes to the Leeds Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2015 priority of increasing the number of people that have more choice and control over their health and social care services.

4.3.2 The services also contributes to the Vision for Leeds' City Priorities that aims to make Leeds the best place to live in the UK and ensure people live full and active independent lives and live longer.

4.3.3 LVC contributes to Better Lives through Housing Care and Support by enhancing the quality of life for people with care and support needs.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 ASC reclaimed an under spend of £33.740 from LVC's 2013/14 budget. Their budget will be further reduced by 10% in the 2015/16 financial year. The service will continue to ensure the reduction in funding has a minimal impact on the level of service delivery. The funding for this service is currently in the Councils revenue budget for 2015-2016.

4.4.2 The value of the twelve month extension for LVC services from ASC during 2015-2016 is £467.350.

4.4.3 The current contract provider has trebled the number of customers accessing LVC for less than half of the value of the previous contract.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This decision has been placed on the list of forthcoming key decisions and is subject to call-in. The report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

4.5.2 CPRs 21.1 and 21.2 permit the extension of a contract where it is in accordance with the contract terms, is made before the expiry date of the contract and will deliver Best Value.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 No risks to the Council are anticipated in the extension of this contract.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The approval of the extension will enable commissioners to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment, a Market Sounding Exercise and/or a procurement exercise with the intension to award a single contract to provide services for people with Sight impairment commencing April 1st 2016.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Interim Director of Adult Social Services is recommended to extend the contract for LVC using the second of two 12 month extensions starting from April 1st 2015 to 31st March 2016 in accordance with CPR 21.1 and 21.2.

6.2 The Commissioning Manager, Adult Social Care, will implement this decision directly after it has been taken, subject to the necessary clearance process being completed, by issuing the relevant contract extension documentation to the provider.

7 Background documents¹.

7.1 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.