
Report of Chief Officer Strategy and Commissioning

Report to Resources Scrutiny Board

Date: 26 January 2015

Subject: Plans to Develop an Integrated Peoples' Commissioning Service

1) Introduction

This note aims to briefly set out the plans to develop an integrated people's commissioning service. It follows directly from two reports to Corporate Leadership Team and provides an opportunity for comment from Resources Scrutiny Board at the outset of the next stage of development.

2) Main Issues

2.1 Aims of Integrated Commissioning Programme

Following a request from CLT in 2014, plans are now being developed to improve the integration of "people's" commissioning services in the council with the aim of:

- Improving outcomes for service users by having more joined up services which better respond to their individual needs.
- Developing a more consistent approach to commissioning services within the Council by bringing together the breadth of commissioning experience currently dispersed across multiple directorates.
- Respond to changes in national policy relating the [Care Act \(2014\)](#) and to the [Children and Families Act \(2014\)](#).
- More effectively respond to Council priorities which cannot be addressed by commissioning from a single directorate.
- Identifying opportunities to achieve greater alignment of commissioning activities with external partners, and in particular the NHS.
- Achieving efficiencies by taking a more co-ordinated approach to market development and the way we manage multiple contracts with single providers.
- Achieving savings by reducing the proportion of investment required by the Council to commission and contract manage services.

2.2 Governance and Reporting

The project to integrate commissioning will be managed through a project team lead by the Chief Officer Strategy and Commissioning in Public Health and will report to Best Council Design Team. A similar report is being prepared for Jan 2015 BCLT setting out the governance arrangements and timetable for delivery.

Resources Scrutiny Board are requested to comment in particular on the requirement for further reports on this programme of work and any particular areas that the Board may wish to be considered in detail.

2.3 A Phased Delivery

A phased approach will be taken with the implementation of this programme work as follows:

- Phase 1: April 2015

Development of a virtual team which will bring together all staff likely to be in scope under a single accountability. This would include all commissioning staff in Adult Social Care, Children's Service and the Strategy and Commissioning Service within Public Health in the first instance.

- Phase 2: April to October 2015

Confirm which further areas of commissioning of people's services should be included within scope of the new service and undertake a formal realignment of both in terms of staffing and premises where appropriate.

- Phase 3: To Be Determined

Develop improved alignment with commissioning functions operating outside of the Council, principally the CGGs.

2.4 Approach to Savings

The development of an integrated people's commissioning service takes place within the context of increasing budget pressures, but also a likely growth in the total value of commissioning within the Council as a proportion of the overall budget.

The project will seek to identify opportunities for efficiencies and savings both in terms of the value of contracts with providers through improved integration, but also in the value of the investment the council makes in providing the commissioning function itself.

It is anticipated that savings from senior management may be possible through a potential restructure, however further work is needed to confirm the scope of staff which staff might be included within a new service and the structure required to manage it.

3) **Recommendations**

Resources Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

- Note and comment on the plans to develop improved integration of people's commissioning services.

- To comment on the requirement for further reports on this programme of work and any particular areas that the Board may wish to be considered in detail.