

FOOTCARE SERVICE - AWARD OF CONTRACT

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Executive Summary:

To seek approval to award the contract for a preventative Basic Foot Care service for Older People within Milton Keynes.

Foot problems, such as painful feet, impair balance and functional ability and increase the risk of trips and falls. This new preventative service will provide basic foot care, in order to improve people's quality of life by supporting independence, mobility, socialisation and associated mental well being.

This service is primarily aimed at people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to cut their own toe nails. The Service would benefit people falling into the following categories:

- Older people who can no longer manage to cut their own toe nails and have no care or family support to assist them
- People with a physical or Learning Disability and have no care or family support to assist them

The expected value of the contract will be in the region of £200,000 over a period of three years. This will enable the provider to set up a service that will achieve full cost recovery and achieve self sustainability by the end of the contracted period.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the public and press be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 3 (Information Relating to the Financial or Business Affairs of the Authority) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 during consideration of the **Annex** to the report.
- 1.2 That the award of the contract for the Basic Foot Care service be approved using the MEAT (Most Economically Advantageous Tendering) process.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The main aim of the proposed preventative service is to enable older people to remain independent and live in their own homes for as long as possible, therefore reducing the need for them to enter into more intensive services providing health and/or social care. As part of the prevention agenda, this service will be required to be targeted and responsive to the needs of older people and to ensure they are supported in achieving a high quality of life, stay healthy, and are able to maximise control over their own lives and those of their families, helping to retain dignity and respect.

- 2.2 The contract will be awarded to the successful application evaluated using the Council's Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) process at Annex A. This will be adapted to ensure that the evaluation criteria reflect that the tender results in the provision of a preventative service and overall value for money; incorporating service quality and relevant experience is required rather than lowest cost. The new service is proposed to commence in April 2012.
- 2.3 Extensive consultation with Older People has shown that they would very much like a reasonably priced nail cutting service, especially since the NHS Podiatry Service no longer offers this service. Additionally, local Older Peoples' groups and LINK:MK have lobbied for this service to be established in MK.

3. **Policy**

3.1 This service will support the Putting People First Agenda which highlights the Government's commitment to independent living through prevention and early intervention, and the seven strategic outcomes identified:

- Live Independently
- Stay healthy and recover quickly from Illness
- Exercise maximum control over their own life and, where appropriate, the lives of their family members
- Sustain a family unit which avoids children being required to take on inappropriate caring roles
- Participate as active and equal citizens, both economically and socially
- Have the best quality of life, irrespective of illness or disability
- Retain maximum dignity and respect

3.2 These outcomes are fully incorporated into the Council's social care transformation programme.

3.3 The proposed preventative service will contribute to a number of the Council's strategic objectives and contribute to key performance indicators.

NI 141- The percentage of service users who are supported to achieve independent living (also included in the LAA).

NI 142 The percentage of service users who are supported to establish and maintain independent living.

Implications

3.4 Resources and Risk

The Council already jointly commissions an extensive range of health and social care services from the independent and third sector with a strong requirement to evidence value for money. This will be evidenced through the procurement and contract monitoring process.

N	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

3.5 Carbon and Energy Management

Not applicable

3.6 Legal

Contracts will be let in accordance with the Council Contracts Tenders and Quotations Handbook and its Financial Regulations.

Health and Social services are Part B services within the context of the European Union procurement directives. There is no requirement to advertise this tender opportunity in the Official Journal of the European Union and it is not necessary to follow a timetable prescribed by the EU directives.

3.7 Other Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed on the service changes and recommended to continue the decision noting the adjustments or amendments required. Details of the assessment can be found at: <http://bit.ly/EqIA2011-26>. The service will contribute to the improvement in the quality of life, and physical and mental health, of vulnerable and older people. The service will contribute to home safety, well being and independence and the reduction of falls. People will receive education on how to look after their feet, such as: washing feet correctly, self help, identification of risks associated with foot problems and complications, how to apply a simple foot dressing. And will also be provided with advice and information about accident prevention such as appropriate, supportive footwear. Commissioners will work with the provider to understand how and where people would prefer the service to be delivered i.e. geographical areas, types of venue, home visits etc. and will monitor and evaluate the service throughout the life of the contract.

Y	Equalities / Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	N	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: Department of Health (2009) Footcare DH. London