

Wards Affected:

ALL WARDS

ITEM **14**

CABINET PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

4 DECEMBER 2012

EXTENSION OF CONTRACT - CARERS MK, PROVISION OF A CARERS' SUPPORT SERVICE.

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Executive Summary:

This report is seeking approval to extend the contract for the carers support services provided by Carers Milton Keynes for an additional 12 months from April 2013- March 2014.

The contract was originally awarded to Carers MK with the commencement date of 1 April 2010 for 3 years, with the possibility of extension to 31st March 2015.

Carers MK deliver unified carers support service for adult, parent and young carers. Offering local carers access to a range of services including support & social groups, therapies, advice and training.

Service access data demonstrates significant numbers of adult carers, parent carers and young carers are receiving access to information, advice and support in relation to their caring role.

In light of proposed new duties for Local Authorities in the provision of carers support, approval is sought to extend the contract in order that continuity of service is provided whilst Milton Keynes Councils future requirements for carer's services are considered in full.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the extension of the contract for the carers support service until March 2014 be approved.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution requires all extensions to contract in excess of £100,000 to be approved.
- 2.2 The annual contract value is £235, 000.
- 2.3 Service Outcomes:

Carers MK deliver a range of activities to their users, including 1:1 support & social groups, therapies, information & advice and training in order to achieve the following outcomes;

- (a) Adult Carers are;
 - (i) Respected as expert care partners and have access to the integrated and personalised services the need to support them in their caring role
 - (ii) Able to have a life of their own alongside their caring role
 - (iii) Supported so they don't come into financial hardship by their caring role
 - (iv) Supported to stay mentally and physically well

- (b) Parent carers are;
 - (i) Given timely advice
 - (ii) Given timely support
 - (iii) Directed to other sources of practical, financial and emotional support to assist them in continuing to care for their disabled child

- (c) Young Carers;
 - (i) Are supported in their caring roles and return to accessing universal services as appropriate
 - (ii) Receive coordinated support to ensure the support needs of the cared for are being properly met
 - (iii) With enduring need receive ongoing support.

2.4 Service Access

There are currently 2303 carers recorded on the data base.

A breakdown of carers currently being supported includes,

- (i) 421 parent / carers
- (ii) 220 young carers
- (iii) 1662 adult carers

Carers MK provide on average 2600 recorded instances of support per year – plus additional information and advice over the telephone to a range of carers and professionals across Milton Keynes.

- 2.5 Considerable national drivers to change for carers' support services include, Caring for our Future: reforming care and support and the draft Care and Support Bill (July 2012).
- 2.6 The White Paper and Bill propose new duties for the Local Authorities in the provision of carers support services – which are likely to come into force early 2015.

2.7 The development of a new service specification for carers support service is highly likely.

2.8 Extension of the current contract is required to allow sufficient time to consider requirements of future carers support services in line with Local Authority duties

3.0 Alternative Options

3.1 The alternative option is to not extend the contract and re - tender carer support services. Given the current uncertainty in the delivery of carers services, due to pending legislation, this is not recommended.

4 Implications

4.1 Policy

The extension of this contract complies with adherence to Milton Keynes Council Framework for Commissioning the Third Sector. The service review function is key to ensuring that the future commissioning of services is in tune with policy and strategic objectives.

4.2 Resources and Risk

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

The annual financial allocation to Carers MK to provide a Carers Support Service is £235, 000.

The financial allocation is as follows,

Adult Carers: £165,000 / year

Parent Carers: £10,000 / year (Children & Families contribution)

Young Carers: £60,000/ year (C&F contribution)

Carers MK are currently involved in the implementation of the Independent Project. An EU funded project to help older carers (age 55+) become more confident in using technology to access carer support. A significant investment into a data base has been made. To not extend the contract with Carers MK would be detrimental to this project.

4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

The provider does not operate from Council buildings

4.4 Legal

The statutory powers under which this service is provided include:

- The Carers Act 2004, which gives carers more choice and better opportunities to lead a more fulfilling life by ensuring they receive

information about their rights under the Carers and Disabled Children 2000 Act.

- The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 which establishes support for carers as a national priority.

4.5 Other Implications

None

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

5.0 Background Papers: None