

REPORT TO: EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE ON 9 APRIL 2008

SUBJECT: TENDERING FOR CARERS' SERVICES - PROGRESS UPDATE

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To update Committee on progress in relation to the development of a specification for Carers Services and the indicative timetable for tendering.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D (23) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to Social Work services.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Education & Social Services Committee is asked to:-

- (i) note the work that is underway to strengthen services for Carers across Moray;**
- (ii) note the timetable for specification development and tendering; and**
- (iii) agree that further updates are made available as necessary to Committee on progress.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members considered a report on 28 November 2007 on a revised Carers' Strategy that reflects the result of extensive consultation with registered Carers. This report also highlighted the need to develop a detailed specification for Carers' Services based upon the revised strategy and the feedback from Carers. It was noted that the specification should be outcome-based and used to tender for those services that cannot be undertaken in-house. It was noted that producing a specification for ongoing service provision, based on a long term contract, would demonstrate the commitment and support the Council wishes to provide the Carers of Moray.
- 3.2 Members will recall that although the Committee Report suggested a tendering process during 2008, with a contractual start date of April 2009, concern was expressed by Officers that a potential lead in time of 16 months before more targeted services for Carers were delivered was too long. It was therefore suggested that the Council should aim for September/October 2008 as a contractual start date. Representations were made by Moray Carers Project that the timescale would be too tight but Committee agreed to aim for September 2008 with update reports requested to monitor progress.

4. PROGRESS

- 4.1 A Carers Strategy Officer, recruited under Delegated Authority, commenced employment at the end of February 2008.
- 4.2 Meetings have taken place involving representatives of Children & Families, Community Care and this new postholder to begin to develop the detail of the specifications for Carers Services for adults, children and young people. This process is being informed by research into best practice elsewhere.
- 4.3 This important developmental phase will ensure that the emerging specifications will set out outcomes to be achieved for Carers and particular approaches to commissioning, providing support and to measuring outcomes. The specifications will also seek to address mutual concerns regarding the identification of the needs both of carers and those cared for, whether adults or children, together with transitional arrangements in respect of those currently receiving Carers Services.
- 4.4 A crucial aspect of this development phase will be to ensure that arrangements for assessment and care planning for individual carers and persons cared for, will be made consistent with the requirements of the Single Shared Assessment (for adults) or the Children's Services Integrated Assessment Framework. Arrangements for the transfer of responsibility for assessment, planning and review for Carers as they cease to be legally deemed as "children" will also be included. This focus on Carers' needs and strengthening key processes was reflected in the recent recommendations made by the Social Work Inspection Agency.
- 4.5 Committee is asked to note the tender timeline attached at **APPENDIX 1**. The intention is to have a finalised specification ready for issuing for tender at the end of March and Committee should note that interim budgets, activities and monitoring requirements for the period from 1 April to 30 September 2008 have been agreed. It should be noted however, that delays could occur depending on the outcome of scheduled consultation processes and the response to advertisement.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- | (a) | Corporate Development
Improvement Plan | Plan/Community | Plan/Service |
|------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| (i) | To support the Theme group - Achieving a Healthy and Caring Community | | |
| (ii) | To support the Theme group – Investing in Children and Young People | | |
| (iii) | To support the Theme group – Building Stronger Communities | | |
| (iv) | Supporting the Moray Compact | | |

(b) Policy and Legal

- (i) To ensure contracts are tendered and placed using approved processes.
- (ii) To ensure suppliers abide by agreed contractual requirements for service delivery.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**(i) Financial –**

- The financial outcomes of this process are not possible to define until the specification and tendering processes are completed. However a significant proportion of services developed and delivered will be from the existing budget. Further resources will be made available to carers through the additional allocation of £50,000 made by Moray Council as part of this year's budget setting exercise.

(ii) Risk –

- In tendering for services under statutory procurement requirements some local organisations may not be successful in retaining sufficient financial income to remain viable.

(d) Consultations

The Chief Executive; Chief Legal Officer; Head of Community Care; Jane Mackie – Lead System Manager; Deborah Brands - Principal Accountant; Karen Wiles - Principal Solicitor; and Suzanne Wright - Contracts Officer have all been consulted on the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The feedback from the consultation exercise which has informed the new Carers' Strategy provides Moray Council and its partners with an opportunity to develop and target scarce resources in the most effective and efficient ways to address need. The work currently underway and the tender timeline will form the basis to move this important agenda forward.**

Author of Report: Sandy Riddell
Background Papers: With the author
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