

**REPORT TO: HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
6 AUGUST 2008**

SUBJECT: BEFRIENDING SERVICE TENDER

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Health & Social Care Services Committee of the outcome of the tender for a Befriending Service for older persons.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to exercising the functions of the Council as Social Work Authority under the Social Work (Scotland) Act.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Committee approve the lowest tender negotiated that matches best value for a befriending service as detailed in paragraph 4(c) of the report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In April 2008 the Community Services Department went out to tender for a Befriending Service for older persons for the period up to March 2012. The service replaces the current contract with Community First, which was due to terminate on 31 March 2008.
- 3.2 The Befriending Service will involve the management of a team of volunteers to support frail, disabled or socially isolated older people aged 60 or over, living independently or with little support in their own homes in the Moray area. It is anticipated that there will be 60 matches made per annum, extending the current befriending service provided by Community First who currently support around 15 clients. The aim of the service is to support people within their own homes and/or enable them to participate in community activities.
- 3.3 The new service will replace the contract for a Good Neighbour Scheme currently held with Community First. The contract with Community First ended on 31 March 2008 but has been extended on a month by month basis until the tender process is complete and a new

provider is able to commence providing a service, so as to allow a continuation of service for current clients.

- 3.4 The tender process for the new service was completed on 7 July 2008 and the successful bidder was British Red Cross. Negotiations are due to commence between the Lead Officer and the service provider to discuss the lead-in time for the commencement of the new contract. The new contract will be until March 2012.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The Befriending Service will contribute to meeting the objectives of the following strategies by helping older persons within Moray to live independently and enable them to participate in community activities:

- Scottish Government National Outcomes Framework
- Moray Community Plan
- Older People Strategy
- Moray Health & Social Care Partnership

(b) Policy and Legal

This report is in line with the Council's Procurement Procedures, principles of Best Value and Follow The Public Pound.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

There are cost savings with the new service. The current service with Community First is costed for 2008-09 at £59,727. Costings for the first year of the service with British Red Cross are £46,539, giving a saving in Year One of £13,188. Costs for subsequent years of the contract indicate potential savings over the life of the contract of £47,513 when compared against the cost of purchasing the service from the current provider. The new service will also support 75% more clients than the current provision.

(d) Consultations

Director of Community Services, Head of Community Care, Lorraine Paisey, Principal Accountant and Lead System Manager have been consulted and are in agreement with this report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the funding levels that have been negotiated and detailed in this report.

Author of Report: George Gartly, Contracts Manager

Background Papers:
Ref: