

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 17 MAY 2016
title: LCC ACTIVE LIVES AND HEALTHY WEIGHT CONTRACT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: MARK BEVERIDGE, HEAD OF CULTURAL AND LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Members of the award of the Active Lives and Healthy Weight Contract by Lancashire County Council (LCC) to carry out work on their behalf in the Borough on a range of health improvement issues for local people.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Community Objectives – To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley
 - Corporate Priorities - To help make people's lives safer and healthier

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2015, LCC gave notice that they would not be renewing the Healthy Lifestyles contract they had with RVBC, as well as all the other districts in the county. LCC decided to package the contracts into lots which would be tendered under a new service specification. This new specification was then written with a broader approach to physical activity and healthy weight. An eastern lot, consisting of Burnley, Pendle, Hyndburn, Rossendale, and Ribble Valley, was established by the County, the other 4 lots divided Lancashire along lines mirroring existing clinical care groups.
- 2.2 A tender was submitted by the partners, who got together to prepare the bid submission for this East Lancashire lot. The partners consisted of the Leisure Trusts of the four local authority areas in the East, plus RVBC. LCC subsequently informed all tender groups that the process had been halted, as a result of the budget difficulties the County was facing. They asked all tenderers to resubmit on a slightly revised specification and a reduced budget.
- 2.3 Following evaluation, LCC has awarded the Lancashire East lot to the consortium consisting of the group in 2.1 above.
- 2.4 The contract has been awarded for a period of 3 years, with an option to extend for 2 further years. Because the contract was only officially awarded within the week it was due to commence (1st April, 2016), LCC has agreed that the old contract specification will apply until the beginning of June 2016, to allow all successful tenderers to make the necessary arrangements to commence delivery of the new specification.
- 2.5 The lead body for the purposes of the tender will be Pendle Leisure Trust; they will act as the accountable body to LCC in respect of the Contract.
- 2.6 There are some staff from other providers who may need to transfer as part of TUPE Regulations. These staff would essentially be working in the Hyndburn area primarily,

but be part of the whole delivery staff in East Lancashire. The nature of the tender assumes that the group of delivery partners will work to a standard approach across all districts.

- 2.7 The new service specification is based around 'Active Lives and Healthy Weight', and includes both targeted and early intervention strategies. There is less focus on clinical referral-based interventions (although they will still be included), and a much heavier focus on a community development approach. Whereas previous contracts have been aimed at adults, this new specification covers a wider age range, targeting families, schools, workplace, and community. This will mean a more holistic way of working, and also a standardised service across East Lancashire. LCC was very clear in stating that the service was to be innovative in its approach, and wanted to move away from the GP referral and weight management programmes that have been delivered historically. To win this contract, there has been a different approach adopted, combining creativity of delivery allied to competitiveness in offering value for money. The new service will offer more client choice, and a flexible approach with a range of programmes and sessions. This is a brand new way of working and, in order to be successful, the consortium will need proactive staff delivering a wide range of interventions.
- 2.8 A legal agreement will need to be drawn up between the members of the consortium to ensure that all are party to the delivery of the contract with LCC. Pendle Leisure, as the lead body, will need to sign this.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The delivery team will spend the majority of their time out the office. This will require a support arrangement in the offices which has yet to be organised. This will enable potential or current clients to have contact with the team.
- 3.2 The idea of the lots across Lancashire is that, for each area, it is a seamless service from a client perspective. This may mean, on occasion, that staff within the Eastern lot have to work outside their normal geographical area to ensure that the right level of cover is provided across the 5 areas defined in the contract for East Lancashire.
- 3.3 There has been some discussion of a Community Interest Company being created, to which all staff could be seconded. For the Leisure Trusts, this is something to which their respective Board of Trustees would need to agree. In the case of RVBC, constitutionally, it would not be possible for the Council to enter into such an arrangement.
- 3.4 Each of the four Boroughs which have Leisure Trusts has decided to allow the trusts to act on their behalf, but the Councils themselves will not be partners to the agreement. As Ribble Valley does not have such a leisure trust arrangement, the Council will need to partner with the 4 trusts in the East to deliver the contract.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – Existing staff will transfer to deliver the contract on behalf of the Council.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – A legal agreement will need to be drawn up which this Council is satisfied it can enter into without any liability beyond the staff it currently employs.
- Reputation – The service, from which local residents have benefited, is important for health, and the Council is well-placed to help deliver this. Withdrawal from the service would impact on a stated priority of the Council to help make people's lives healthier.

5 **CONCLUSION**

It is good news for residents and for the Council, that we will continue to deliver a service to help people live healthier lives.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS - None

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Community Services 17.5.16/Mark Beveridge/IW