ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

1.	Meeting:	Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	9 th July 2009
3.	Title:	Voluntary and Community Sector Review
4.	Programme Area:	Neighbourhoods and Adult Services

5. Summary

- 5.1 This paper is a summary of the contract review process for the voluntary and community contracts held by Neighbourhoods and Adult Services. Appendix 1 contains a table naming the contracted providers and it provides a summary of the recommendations and main findings.
- 5.2 The reviews show the need for some contracts to be renewed, others to be re-specified in light of the personalisation programme, and all contracts to become more outcome focussed.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Scrutiny is asked to note the contents of the report and the work being undertaken with each provider on their contract.
- 6.2 Scrutiny is also asked to note the work being undertaken to develop a strategic commissioning framework for the VCS.

7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1 The services identified in Appendix 1 are all contracted on a block basis. This means that the council purchases the service on behalf of the customer who is then offered a place on the service. This mechanism for customers accessing services is not personalised and in some instances needs to be changed. This is a recommendation made in three cases: Sense Supported Living, Age Concern Handyperson Service, and Crossroads Sitting Contract.
- 7.2 A second set of contracts need their service specifications tightening to be outcome led, after which a tendering exercise could deliver better value for money. These are: Age Concerns Advocacy, the Carers Forum, Alzheimer's Support Group, RNIB Information Service.
- 7.3 One contract requires full renewal of cost and volume purchase basis because of the essential function the service performs (Sense), the RNID communication service is also essential and needs to be recontracted, whilst the RNID equipment services needs to be reorganised as demand and complexity mean the current specification and operating model requires updating. This will be done in partnership with RNID over the next year, resulting in a revised service that can be tendered.
- 7.4 A key factor in the review was strategic relevance of the services in light of personalisation in particular and the approach to deciding this was led by a set of working priorities. These are detailed in Appendix 2. Over the next six months these working priorities will be revised and replaced by a comprehensive strategic commissioning approach. This approach is being developed in partnership with the Voluntary Sector led by Voluntary Action Rotherham

8. Finance

8.1 The current annual contract values are:

Age Concern Advocacy: £22K
Age Concern Handyperson: £34K
Carers Forum: £36K
Alzheimer's Support: £24K
Crossroads Sitting Service: £100K
RNIB Information: £88K
RNID Equipment: £44K
RNID Communication: £21K

Sense Supported Living:

- 1 £2377 per week (recharged in full to NHS Rotherham)
- 2 £ 762 per week from RMBC
- 3 £ 762 per week from RMBC

9. Risks and Uncertainties

9.1 At this stage the pace of change in relation to personalisation is not known so a six month contract extension has been given to providers, all of whom have agreed except for the Carers Forum. Negotiations are underway to maintain the service to customers while the service can be re-procured.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

10.1 The services all contribute to the preventative agenda, and in future many will be funded through personal budgets,

11. Background Papers and Consultation

- 11.1 Appendix 1 Review document.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 Commissioning framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).

Contact Name: Tim Gollins, Strategic Commissioning Manager – Ext. 3929

Email: tim.gollins@rotherham.gov.uk