

Committee/Meeting: Cabinet	Date: 3 rd July 2013	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No: CAB 007/134
Report of: Corporate Director: Ann Canning Originating officer(s) Deborah Cohen, Service Head Commissioning and Health		Title: Extension of block contract for Carers Respite: Camden Society: Hotel in the Park Wards Affected: All	

Lead Member	Councillor Asad
Community Plan Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy community • A safe and supportive community
Strategic Priority	Early Intervention and Prevention

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council currently commissions a range of services that support Carers in the borough. These include a block contracts for respite service with The Camden Society which provides a short break residential service for adults with learning disabilities through their Hotel in the Park Service based at Sewardstone Road, near Victoria Park.
- 1.2 In line with the Three Year Carers Plan, the intention is to review block contract arrangements in order to transfer some of these funds into carers personal budgets and a newly commissioned Shared Lives Service which will offer carers more flexibility and increase options for carers in how they take a break.
- 1.3 This report seeks an extension of this current contract to 31st December 2013, which will bring the expiry dates in line with the other carers contracts for respite type services. All of these contracts will need to go to the market in line with procurement good practice during 2013-14.

2. **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to –

- 2.1 Approve the extension requested in paragraph 6.3.
- 2.2 Authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) to enter into all necessary documents to implement the decision at 2.1

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

3.1 The Council, in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group, produced a three year Plan for Carers last year, which outlines the proposals for:

- § A new “Carers Journey” which introduces personal budgets for the first time to eligible carers, and
- § A new equitable respite policy, which includes the re-commissioning of specialist support for carers.

Members agreed the Carers Three Year Plan (2012-2015) at Cabinet on 20th June 2012.

3.2 A key part of this Strategy is about respite care and the demand for more flexibility and choice for our carers and service users.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 Not extending this contract would mean access to residential respite for adults with Learning Disabilities would be limited to spot purchase arrangements. This would potentially allow the organisation to increase their fees without strategic negotiation. Hotel in the Park is the only provision in the borough which many families prefer as it enables them to be close to their loved ones. Many families would want to continue to use the service.

4.2 There are out of borough providers, which are used by some families and the Council may choose to use these spot purchased arrangements as a preference, if they are cheaper. This may lead to an increase in complaints from families and carers who want to continue to use Hotel in the Park.

5. BACKGROUND

5.1 The first Tower Hamlets Carers Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in 2010, identified that:

- § Tower Hamlets has around 21,000 unpaid carers in the borough out of a total population of 242,078
- § We have a higher proportion of the population providing 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week than any other London Borough with 5,800 providing 50 hours or more per week.
- § The proportion providing 50 hours or more per week in Tower Hamlets is the highest in England (2.38% in Tower Hamlets compared to 1.66% in London and 2.03% in England).
- § A higher proportion of the Tower Hamlets population (1.32%) provides 20-49 hours unpaid care per week to a family member, partner or friend than the London (1.01%) or England average (1.08%).
- § Nationally, carers experience worse general health than the general population

§ In Tower Hamlets, 63% of carers (providing 20 hours or more unpaid care per week) are female, 18% of carers are of pensionable age, 44% of carers are Bangladeshi and 41% are white British.

6. BODY OF THE REPORT

6.1 The Council currently commissions a range of services specifically to support the needs of unpaid carers.

6.2 This includes block contracts for respite services that support Carers in their caring role. Respite care enables carers and families to maintain their loved ones in the home. The Camden Society provides a short break residential service for adults with learning disabilities through their Hotel in the Park Service based at Sewardstone Road, near Victoria Park. It is the only such provision that is in the borough.

6.3. Detail of the contract in question is noted below.

Contract	Description of Services	Value of contract extension	Full year equivalent
The Camden Society – Hotel in the Park	Hotel in the Park, based in the borough near Victoria Park on Sewardstone Road, provides a short break residential service for adults with Learning Disabilities. It provides valued respite for carers and parents of adults with Learning Disabilities.	£304,856 (to 31 st December 2013)	£555,915

6.4 Hotel in the Park provides residential respite in the borough. It has seven rooms available. During 2012-13, 93 people were registered with the service. The provision is allocated dependent on family/carer need: a negotiated number of days per year which can be used in a flexible way. Some people may prefer to stay for a week and some for a few days or over a weekend which enables family carers to have a break, focussing on their own and the family's needs. Overall, the vacancy factor averages around 8%.

6.5 All users of the service have a learning disability as their primary disability, with most having co-morbidities such as physical disabilities, mental health issues, autism or other challenging behaviour issues.

- 6.6 Users of the service are primarily English (37%) and Bangladeshi (32%), with a broad range of other identified ethnicities accounting for the remaining 31%. Just over two-thirds of the Hotel in the Park guests are male.
- 6.7 When last inspected by CQC on 31st October 2012, the service met all the CQC national standards.
- 6.8 The three year Plan for Carers indicates our intention to reduce the use of block contracts for carers' services to free up resources within the current resource envelope to fund the introduction of a wider range of personal budgets for carers to enable greater choice and flexibility in the way they choose their support. This may include setting up a Shared Lives Service for Tower Hamlets which would provide a flexible form of support for adults who have assessed FACs eligible needs by matching service users with carers in the community.
- 6.9 During the life of this strategy the take up of personal budgets by carers is expected to continue to grow. Personal budgets will enable a carer to make their own arrangements for the services they have been assessed as needing.
- 6.10 The contracts are due to go to the market in line with procurement good practice, and this report seeks an extension of this current contract to 31st December 2013, in line with contract extension clause, to allow the Council to undertake procurement processes.
- 6.11 The model of residential respite care may not be the best value for money that we could achieve, and we believe that it may not be the best option for many of our service users. We need to explore a greater range of community based options, such as Shared Lives, which would maximise social capital.
- 6.12 The extension of this contract will align the re-procurement of all Carers contracts and enable consideration to be given to a greater range of future options for respite care for carers across all service user groups. These contracts are listed at Appendix 1.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 Current contractual arrangements with the Camden Society, who provide a short break residential service for adults with learning disabilities through their Hotel in the Park Service based at Sewardstone Road near Victoria Park, is due to expire on the 12th July 2013. This report seeks cabinet approval to award a contract extension to the Camden Society from 13th July 2013 to 31st December 2013.
- 7.2 The contract extension is necessary for the reasons described in sections 1.2 and 1.3 above.

7.3 The cost of the contract extension is £304,856 and will be funded through existing general fund budgets. There are no specific savings targets attached to this service that would be impacted by extending the existing contract.

8. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 8.1 The Council is required to carry out carer's assessments in circumstances specified under the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 and, separately, under the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 ("the Carers Acts"). The services the Council may provide to a carer depend on the avenue by which the carer's assessment is carried out. Under section 2 of the Carers and Disabled Children Act, the Council may provide any services which it sees fit to provide that will help the carer to care for the person cared for. Such services may take the form of physical or other forms of support. The power is broad enough to support the provision of respite carer.
- 8.2 Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 requires best value authorities, including the Council, to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness"
- 8.3 This contract has had a right of extension within it allowing the Council to extend it until 31.3.14, which will give the Council sufficient time to re-procure the services in line with other similar contracts. This will provide efficiencies as the contracts can be procured together thus reducing procurement costs overall.
- 8.4 The contract is for Part B services and so the full provisions of the Public Contract Regulations 2006 do not apply. However they are still expressly subject to the equality and transparency obligations under the Regulations so there will be a need to open the procurement up for competitive bids.
- 8.5 When determining its approach to deliver the services to carers, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. Information is contained in the report relevant to these considerations.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The service supports two of the four themes of the Community Plan:
- A healthy community
 - A safe and supportive community.

- 9.2 Focus is given by The Camden Society to providing services to the diverse communities in Tower Hamlets through inclusive services, a diverse workforce reflecting the community they service and a range of language skills.
- 9.3 Monitoring information indicates that these services give due regard to taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people. Focus is given to providing services to the diverse faith and ethnic communities in Tower Hamlets through culturally appropriate best practice, a diverse workforce reflecting the community they service and a range of language skills.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 The proposals are neutral in terms of contribution to a sustainable environment.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There is a risk that there will not be enough short break services available in borough if agreement to this extension is not forthcoming.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no crime and disorder reduction implications.

13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 13.1 This is a contract extension where costs were renegotiated previously.

14. APPENDICES

- 14.1 None

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Brief description of “background papers”	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
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None	N/A
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