



Social Care Services Board
9 December 2015

Approval to award a contract for the provision of combined sensory services and the provision of mobility and independent living skills

Purpose of the report: Scrutiny of Services and Budgets

The Board will scrutinise the procurement process and subsequent decision to award a contract for the provision of combined sensory services and the provision of mobility and independent living skills.

Introduction:

1. On November 24 the Cabinet decided to award a contract for the provision of combined sensory services and the provision of mobility and independent living skills.
2. Following concerns raised by a number of stakeholders regarding the procurement process and resultant Cabinet report the Chairman, Keith Witham, decided to call-in the decision for reconsideration by the Scrutiny Board.

Background:

3. Decision text :

That a contract for the provision of combined sensory services and for the provision of mobility and independent living skills be awarded to Sight for Surrey starting from 1 February 2016 for a period of three years with an option to extend on an annual basis for two more years.

Reasons for Decisions:

The current separate contracts listed below are due to expire on 31 January 2016.

A. Contract for the provision of services for people with visual impairments delivered by Sight for Surrey

B. Contract for the provision of services for people with hearing impairments delivered by First Point

The contract listed below expired on 31 October 2015 with temporary arrangements currently in place to ensure continued service delivery.

C. Contract for provision of mobility and independent living skills delivered by Sight for Surrey

A joint contract for adults and children's demonstrates best practice and has the biggest potential to deliver improved outcomes for Surrey residents and will provide value for money.

This joint contract will ensure that Surrey residents continue to receive a timely provision of service, and enable Surrey County Council to continue to meet its statutory duties to provide appropriate services to people with a visual impairment, hearing impairment, dual sensory loss, people who are Deaf, people who use British Sign Language, and to children for provision of mobility and independent living skills.

4. The following documents in relation to the decision made on 24 November 2015 are attached:
 - Report considered by Cabinet on 24 November 2015 (Appendix 1)
 - Combined Sensory Services Equalities Impact Assessment, considered by Cabinet on 24 November 2015 (Appendix 2)
 - The call-in notice received by Democratic Services on 5 May 2015 (Appendix 3)

The Call-In:

5. The Board is asked to consider the above evidence alongside any evidence presented by witnesses at the call-in meeting in order to review the decision taken by the Cabinet.
6. The Board is asked whether or not it wishes to refer the decision back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.
7. If the Board decides to refer back to the Cabinet it must provide its reasons for doing so.

Recommendations:

That the Board reviews the decision of the Cabinet regarding the approval of the contract taken on 24 November 2015 and concludes whether it wishes to refer this back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

Next Steps:

Should the Board decide to support the decision of the Cabinet; the decision will take effect on the date of the Board meeting.

Should the Board refer the decision back to the Cabinet, it will be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 15 December 2015. The Cabinet can then decide to amend the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

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Sources/background papers:

Cabinet Agenda Papers:

<http://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=3702&Ver=4>

Cabinet Decision Details:

<http://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2244>

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