

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission Report

VCS Review Phase 2: Advocacy, Stroke support and Disabled Peoples' Support Service

Lead Director: Steven Forbes
Date: 25th September 2018

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
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- Report version number: 1

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the ASC Scrutiny Commission on the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Review Phase 2 - Advocacy, Stroke support and Disabled Peoples' Support Service.

2 Summary

- 2.1 Adult Social Care (ASC) is carrying out a review of a range of services commissioned from the VCS. The review covers 7 services. In addition, a new service; Service User Participation, is currently being developed.
- 2.2 This report outlines the proposals for Phase 2 – advocacy; disabled persons support service; and stroke support.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The ASC Scrutiny Commission is recommended to note the report and provide comments.

4 Report

- 4.1 Adult Social Care (ASC) is required to make savings of £790k against its Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) spend of £1.9m.

Advocacy

- 4.2 The Council pays £333,964 pa to deliver 7 contracts for statutory and non-statutory Advocacy support. 4 of these contracts have been subject to this review as they deliver a combination of statutory (as defined by the Care Act) advocacy and non-statutory advocacy.
- 4.3 The remaining contracts all provide statutory provision only and so no changes are proposed. These are:

- Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) statutory/current contract £57,710 – **no reduction**
 - Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) statutory/current contract £53,532 – **no reduction**
 - Independent Complaints (ICAS) service – statutory/current contract £25,000 – **no reduction**
- 4.4 It is proposed that those contracts as described at 4.2 providing both Care Act and non-Care Act advocacy are re-focused to provide statutory Care Act advocacy only, and the funding is reduced from £222,722 to £73,433. Therefore, the overall funding envelope is reduced from £333,964 to £209,675.
- 4.5 This will save £124,289 and is in line with changes already made in other councils, including Leicestershire. Demand analysis supports the proposal with the demand for Care Act advocacy being much lower than anticipated.
- 4.6 Existing contracts expire on 31st March 2019.
- 4.7 The proposal is to jointly procure all services with Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils. This will support a seamless service, value for money and a more consistent approach.
- 4.8 Three months formal consultation took place between 21st May to 3rd August 2018. This included meetings with providers and meetings with service users.
- 4.9 There were 52 responses to the consultation survey. 37 people (71%) did not agree with the proposal, 5 people agreed (10%) and 10 people were not sure or did not answer (19%).
- 4.10 Concerns were mainly focussed around the loss of non-care act Advocacy and not knowing where else they can go for this. In response to this ASC will work with Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils to map what is available and provide information online and via social workers.
- Stroke support**
- 4.11 Leicester Stroke Club currently receives a grant of £7,158 and operates a club at two sites (Narborough Road and Oadby). Their additional income of £7k, is raised from donations from the service users and from a church committee.
- 4.12 33 people use the service of whom 22 are City residents.
- 4.13 The proposal is to end funding when the current grant agreement ends on the 31st December 2018.

- 4.14 Three months formal consultation took place from 21st May to 3rd August 2018. 15 people responded to the survey of which 13 disagreed with the proposal.
- 4.15 The main concern raised through the consultation was that if the service was to stop is that people would become isolated and may experience mental health issues.
- 4.16 The Stroke Club indicated it may have to close if ASC funding is withdrawn.
- 4.17 If the proposal is approved ASC will encourage the club to seek support for other sources of funding via VAL.
- 4.18 The 22 city residents who attend the club could be assessed to determine if they are eligible for ASC support, if this was the case there are day care services funded by the council who could provide the same type of service offered by the Stroke Club.

Disabled Persons' Support Service

- 4.19 The existing service is provided by 1 organisation – Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL) and provides infrastructure support to disability groups. The total contract value is £46,200 and it is proposed to end the contract on the 31st March 2019.
- 4.20 The Care Act 2014 requires ASC to engage directly with service users and to involve them in the development of services.
- 4.21 The proposal is to end the Disabled Persons Support Service and to replace it with a Service User Participation Service. The rationale for the proposal is that the Service User Participation service will be a better model as it will enable disabled people to participate directly rather than through intermediaries. In addition, infrastructure support for disability groups is available from Voluntary Action Leicestershire; and Healthwatch also enables disabled people to have a voice in health and social care services.
- 4.22 Engagement on the proposed Service User Participation Service is currently in progress to develop the new service.
- 4.23 Three months formal consultation has taken place on the proposal to end the Disabled Persons Support Service – 21st May to 3rd August 2018. Only 7 people responded to the consultation with 2 agreeing and 5 disagreeing. Comments received in the survey during the consultation were limited to three respondents.

4.24 Concerns raised through the consultation were about the loss of service to individuals and the support that would be given by VAL.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

5.1.1 From the overall savings target of £790k, this report (Phase 2) will save: £1.8k in 2018/19; £177.6k in 2019/20; £177.6k in 2020/21 and £177.6k in 2021/22 (these are cumulative figures).

5.1.2 For completeness, another report (Phase 1) done separately identifies' further savings.

Rohit Rughani, Principal Accountant, Ext 37 4003

5.2 Legal implications

5.2 The Council has followed the Best Value Consultation Guidance and undertaken appropriate consultations with the responses being conscientiously considered before a final decision is made.

Jenis Taylor, Principal Solicitor (Commercial), Ext 37 1405

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

5.3

5.4 Equalities Implications

5.4

6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A: Advocacy EIA

Appendix B: Stroke support EIA

Appendix C: Disabled Peoples' Support Service EIA

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?