

<p>CABINET MEETING –14 APRIL 2010</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</p>	
<p>Title of Report: PROCUREMENT OF THE PROVISION OF A COMPANIONSHIP SERVICE (CARER RELIEF)</p>	
<p>Author(s): Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services</p>	
<p>Purpose of Report: The purpose of the report is to set out the arrangements for the procurement of the provision of a Companionship Service (Carer Relief) and to seek Cabinet approval to undertake a tender process.</p>	
<p>Description of Decision: To approve arrangements for the procurement of a Companionship Service (Carer Relief) and to seek Cabinet approval to undertake a tender process and to award the contract to the successful bidder(s) providing that they can demonstrate a value for money proposal.</p>	
<p>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes</p>	
<p>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</p>	
<p>Suggested reason(s) for Decision: The current contracts ends on the 31 August 2010, therefore by undertaking this procurement exercise the Council can continue to commission the appropriate services necessary to meet individual's needs.</p>	
<p>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: Do nothing is not viable as the current contract ends on 31 August and therefore service provision will cease.</p> <p>For the Council to provide the services in house – this option is not recommended as the Council does not currently provide in house companionship services, and current home care provision, which may be used as a Companionship Service, is focused on specialist provision. Furthermore, the Council's strategy is to build capacity in the market and therefore commissioning this service from an independent provider will contribute to this strategy.</p>	
<p>Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes</p>	<p>Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Health and Wellbeing Review Committee</p>
<p>Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes</p>	

**REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND
ADULT SERVICES**

**PROCUREMENT OF THE PROVISION OF A COMPANIONSHIP SERVICE
(CARER RELIEF)**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to set out the arrangements for the procurement of the provision of a Companionship Service (Carer Relief) and to seek Cabinet approval to undertake a tender process.

2. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

- 2.1 To approve arrangements for the procurement of a Companionship Service (Carer Relief) and to seek Cabinet approval to undertake a tender process and to award the contract to the successful bidder(s) providing that they can demonstrate a value for money proposal.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Companionship Service has been commissioned by the Council since 1999. The current contract commenced in September 2005 and will cease on 31 August 2010. Currently there are 4 Providers across the city delivering this service. This approach has worked well and ensures that there is a good geographical spread of Providers across the city.
- 3.2 The aim of the Companionship Service is to enable carers to have a break from their caring role through providing companionship to the individual who is cared for.
- 3.3 A review of the current service was undertaken in 2008, which concluded that there remains a need for this service and that it is immensely valued by carers. The provision of breaks for carers is a priority identified within the Sunderland Carers Strategy.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The current contract ends on 31 August 2010. Therefore, approval is sought to retender this service to ensure that the Council continues to commission the appropriate service necessary to meet individual's needs and secure contracts with suitable providers.

5. PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

- 5.1 The contract term will be for 2 years with an option to extend for a further 1 year. The value of the contract will be over £250,000 and as such Cabinet approval is being sought for the procurement to proceed.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the contract will be awarded to up to three Providers, however quality and price are both determinants as to who the successful bidder(s) will be.
- 5.3 The Council will seek expressions of interest by June 2010 and potential providers will be selected for interview in July/August 2010 with a view to the contracts with the social care providers being in place from September 2010.

6. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 6.1 The current contracts ends on the 31 August 2010, therefore by undertaking this procurement exercise the Council can continue to commission the appropriate services necessary to meet individual's needs.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has taken place with Sunderland Carers Centre.
- 7.2 Corporate Procurement has been consulted and has provided advice on the procurement strategy and will be fully involved in the tender process.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 8.1 Alternative options have been considered and discounted as follows:
 - 8.1.1 Do nothing is not viable as the current contract ends on 31 August and therefore service provision will cease.
 - 8.1.2 For the Council to provide the services in house - this option is not recommended as the Council does not currently provide in house companionship services, and current home care provision, which may be used as a Companionship Service, is focused on specialist provision. Furthermore, the Council's strategy is to build capacity in the market and therefore commissioning this service from an independent provider will contribute to this strategy.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Review of the Companionship Service July 2008.