

**PROVISION OF SOCIAL CARE FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 At the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 the Committee received an update on the procurement of the provision of social care for adults with a learning disability within nine Residential Care Homes across the city.
- 1.2 In the last few weeks the provider of that service has announced it is going into administration. Philip Foster, Head of Service for Care & Support Services will be in attendance at the meeting to provide members with an update on the continuity of service provision following this development.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 During 2010 the Council decided to undertake a tendering exercise to ensure the service provided to the homes continued to meet the needs and expectations of service users and demonstrated value for money.
- 2.2 Following a procurement exercise which included financial checks, Choices Care Limited were awarded the contract on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010, scoring highest on the forty eight quality requirements and submitting the best value pricing schedule.

**3. Current Position**

- 3.1 Choices Care Limited announced on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2011 that it was going into administration. The Council has two contracts in place with Choices Care; these contracts cover 16 small registered homes for people with a learning disability and autism. There are a total of 88 people living in these 16 homes and around 270 staff providing the service. The size of homes range from 2 people to 8 people living together.
- 3.2 A letter to carers of the people living in the homes was sent on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011, updating them on the current situation, and reassuring them that the services will be maintained and that there will be no change to the standards of care and support provided to people. Carers were also invited to a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to update them on developments and reassure them that the standards of service provision will be maintained.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to receive an update about the future management arrangements of these homes.

#### **Background Papers**

Scrutiny report 'Provision of Social Care for Adults with a Learning Disability'  
6<sup>th</sup> April 2011

---

**Contact Officer:** Karen Brown 0191 561 1004  
[karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk)