

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2017

**INFORMATION REPORT IN RELATION TO THE PROVISION OF AN INTERIM RESPITE CARE SERVICE
FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**

ABSTRACT

This report is to inform committee of the need to explore and negotiate alternative respite service options on an interim basis, following the serving of notice for the facility at Bearehill, until the competitive tendering exercise has been concluded. A mix of the options may be required to meet the needs of the individuals and contract arrangements will be put in place for the chosen options.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that committee:

- (i) Notes the options available; and
- (ii) Notes they will be advised regarding progress in finding an interim solution as appropriate.

2 BACKGROUND

The Council has commissioned respite care for adults with learning disabilities with Four Seasons Healthcare since 2010. The service has been located at Bearehill Care Home. Four beds are block purchased and the Council has the option to spot purchase up to an additional 2 beds.

During this time the cost of the service was re-negotiated with the provider and a new contract was issued to Four Seasons for a period of 2 years (commencing on 12 April 2015), with the option to extend for a further year.

3 CURRENT POSITION

It was the intention to take up the contract extension option of one year to allow the Council to undertake a competitive tender. However, prior to this option being agreed the provider gave six months notice to terminate the contract. The contract will end on 12 April 2017. The Council has a statutory duty to provide respite to carers and an interim solution is required as soon as possible.

The procurement exercise for a permanent solution has commenced and is at the scoping and planning stage.

4 OPTIONS

Various options have been identified and those noted below are considered to be possible options which we are exploring further:

- **Option 1** – a provider has a 4 bedded property in Carnoustie which is currently being refurbished and adapted for adults with learning disabilities.
- **Option 2** – a Housing Association currently has a number of voids within their complex in Kirriemuir. There is a possibility that the Council could utilise a number of flats on the ground floor, however this option is only feasible if the Council can find a use for the remaining empty flats on the ground floor.
- **Option 3** – investigate the possibility of extending the registration of an internal resource in Forfar so that younger adults up to the age of 25 can access this service.
- **Option 4** – a fully adapted facility in Carnoustie may be available to rent for those adults who have physical and complex needs. Care and support would require to be provided separately and this could be achieved by approaching the providers on the current Framework Agreement. Alternatively individuals could receive care and support from their existing provider.
- **Option 5** – the use of a flat located as part of an internal resource. This accommodation would be available for weekends and at certain times over the holiday periods. Care and support would require to be provided separately and this could be achieved by approaching the providers on the current Framework Agreement. Alternatively individuals could receive care and support from their existing provider.
- **Option 6** – Angus Council Housing has been made aware of the need for an interim respite facility and this has been discussed at their Housing Management meeting. Further work is being undertaken to explore possibilities and identify a suitable house.

5 FINANCE

The cost of commissioning an interim respite solution will be contained within the existing budget.

6 CONCLUSIONS

It is imperative that an interim respite service is put in place as soon as possible so that the Council can continue to meet its statutory obligation to provide carers with respite.

Not all of the options detailed above will meet the needs of the current group of service users who access the respite unit at Bearehill, however we are hopeful that a mix of these options will be available to the Council and the Integration Partnership.

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