
Report To:	Health and Social Care Committee	Date:	20 October 2016
Report By:	Brian Moore Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership	Report No:	SW/54/2016/DG
Contact Officer:	Deborah Gillespie Head of Mental Health, Homelessness and Addictions Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership	Contact No:	01475 716150
Subject:	Tendering of Advocacy Service		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval to change the tender weightings in relation to the forthcoming tender process for Advocacy Service in Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The HSCP has a statutory responsibility, principally under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, and Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 to provide access to independent advocacy for specific groups of people. The tender for the provision of the Advocacy Service in Inverclyde is being prepared for advertising.
- 2.2 As in all cases with Social Care service provision, the quality of the care service is of paramount importance. In light of this, it is recommended that the Advocacy Service contract is awarded on a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting split to help ensure the required quality of service and best value cost of service can be procured. This is a reversal of the weighting split in the Contract Standing Order 13.3.
- 2.3 The tender for the current contract used a Quality weighting of 60%. Recent Social Care tenders have also been carried out using a 60% Quality weighting. In all Social Care tenders it is important to ensure that the cost of care is balanced with high quality services. A high quality weighting discourages suppliers from bidding a low price for the service in order to guarantee their success where their quality is poor.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee approve the use of a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting in the forthcoming tender for the Advocacy Service and therefore suspend contract Standing Order 13.3.

Brian Moore
Corporate Director
Inverclyde Health
and Social Care Partnership

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The HSCP has a statutory responsibility, principally under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, and Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 to provide access to independent advocacy for specific groups of people. The tender for the provision of the Advocacy Service in Inverclyde is being prepared for advertising.
- 4.2 The tender for the current contract used a Quality weighting of 60%. Recent Social Care tenders have also been carried out using a 60% Quality weighting. In all Social Care tenders it is important to ensure that the cost of care is balanced with high quality services. A high quality weighting discourages suppliers from bidding a low price for the service in order to guarantee their success where their quality is poor.
- 4.3 In addition to the legislative requirement to provide access to independent advocacy, recent policy for health and welfare in Scotland views patients and the public as partners in a mutual NHS. "Better Health, Better Care: An Action Plan (2007)" means that there is a requirement to treating patients and the public as partners in their care and access to independent advocacy can ensure that all individuals and groups can engage in this process. Independent advocacy ensures equality of access to services particularly for those groups which may otherwise be excluded. The provision of advocacy seeks to ensure the ability of service users to have an equal voice in consideration of response to their needs.

The specification for the service will reflect the core areas of the advocacy service to be delivered by the successful supplier during the contract term. The successful supplier will provide a service for people, aged 16 or over (including people over 65), who are resident in Inverclyde and:

- Have a level of disability which impairs their ability to advocate on their own behalf
- Are Carers to someone resident in Inverclyde
- Have complex needs and are experiencing situations which they are unable to cope with without professional support
- Or who are in receipt of prison healthcare services, within Gateside Prison Greenock

The service will work towards promoting equal opportunities for individuals with physical and learning disabilities, homeless people, older people and people with mental health issues and individuals with addiction problems. The service is expected to prioritise and target people for whom the use of legislation is being considered or is in place, as a framework of support for them.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 As in all cases with Social Care service provision, the quality of the care service is of paramount importance. In light of this, it is recommended that the Advocacy Service contract is awarded on a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting split to help ensure the required quality of service and best value cost of service can be procured. This is a reversal of the weighting split in Contract Standing Order 13.3

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

None

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Equalities

This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy, therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required. The successful organisation/s will be expected to provide an accessible service in line with the Equality Act 2010.

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

6.5 Repopulation

There are no repopulation issues within this report.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None