

**Proposed Officer Key Decision to be taken by the  
Strategic Director of People Group on or after  
24 March 2016**

**Approval to Tender for a support and rehabilitation service for  
adults with a visual impairment**

**Recommendations**

That the Strategic Director of People Group

1. Approves the commencement of a procurement process for a support and rehabilitation service for adults with a visual impairment who are resident in Warwickshire.
2. Approves and authorises the Head of Service for Strategic Commissioning to enter into all relevant contracts for the provision of support and rehabilitation service for adults with a visual impairment on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director of Resources.

**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council currently contracts with Warwickshire Vision Support (formerly known as Warwickshire Association for the Blind (WAB) for the delivery of a support and rehabilitation service for adults with a visual impairment. The service has been in operation since 2005.
- 1.2 The current contract value is £187,890 per annum. This is funded by the People Group Adult Social Care and Support service.
- 1.3 An exemption has been approved for services until the end of September 2016 to allow sufficient time for the service to be tendered and to ensure that any transitional plans can be fulfilled in the event of a change of provider.
- 1.4 Work is underway to develop a new outcome based service specification to ensure the future service is fit for purpose and is Care Act compliant. Feedback collected during consultation with customers will be used to inform the future specification for services. The specification will be co-produced with current customers.

**2.0 Current Service Provision**

- 2.1 The current service delivers Warwickshire's statutory obligations including registration, statutory rehabilitation assessment and associated preventative service provision for adults with a visual impairment. Associated activity includes:
  - Rehabilitation assessment and training
  - Urgent intervention (prior to assessment, often linked to hospital discharge)

- Provision of specialist equipment and training in its use
- Provision of simple rehabilitation equipment
- Low vision rehabilitation work helping to maximise useful vision
- Maintaining a register of residents with a Certificate of Visual Impairment

2.2 As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 a total of 2,365 Warwickshire residents had a formal Certificate of Visual Impairment. Of those who are formally registered with a Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI), 47% are registered blind and 53% partially sighted.

2.3 Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 a total of 705 referrals were received by the provider for rehabilitation assessment.

2.4 The service contributes to Section 2 of the Care Act and our duties to help prevent, reduce or delay needs for care and support.

2.5 It should be noted that the current provider offers a significant range of services to customers with a visual impairment on the basis of its charitable status and in addition to its commissioned role, providing significant added value to the contract.

### **3.0 Proposal**

3.1 The current contract is due to expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Doing nothing is not an option.

3.2 It is proposed that Warwickshire County Council retender the support and rehabilitation service for adults with a visual impairment, setting the existing budget as the ceiling value.

3.3 The process for the retender of a support and rehabilitation service for adults with a visual impairment will begin from the April 2016, with the intention to award and commence services from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

3.4 It is proposed that the new service will have a contractual duration of 3 years, with the option to extend for a further 2 years based on satisfactory performance.

### **4.0 Budget**

4.1 The current annual budget for services is £187,890. It is suggested that figure is set as the ceiling price for the contract. Whilst this will not yield cashable savings the new service specification will require more from the provider in relation to Care Act compliance, tighter timescales on service delivery and support towards deafblind assessments.

4.2 The total maximum value for the contract period is £939,450. As the value is over £500,000 approval to tender is required from the Strategic Director.

### **4.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

4.1 The table below outlines the high level milestones and associated timescales.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Approval to tender secured	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016
Procurement plan approved	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Final specification signed off	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Tender period - Open process	13 <sup>th</sup> May – 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Evaluation	13 <sup>th</sup> June – 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2016
Contract Award	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Contract start date	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2016

- 4.2 As the tender specification progresses and final designs are agreed Equality Impact Assessments can be completed. Within the tender process, the tender specifications for the new services will include requirements relating to equality of access.

## 5.0 Background Papers

None.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Report Author	Michelle Cresswell	Email: michellecresswell@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 746985
Head of Service	Chris Lewington	Email: chrislewington@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 745101
Strategic Director	John Dixon	Email: johndixon@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 412665
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jose Compton	Email: cllrcompton@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 402936

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s):

N/A

Other members:

Cllr Jose Compton (PH Adult Social Care)  
Cllr Maggie O'Rourke (Chair ASC&H OSC)  
Cllr Mike Perry (CS ASC&H OSC)  
Cllr Kate Rolfe (LDS ASC&H OSC)