

**Decision Record – Advocacy, Appointee, Money Management, User Involvement and Empowerment Services**

<b>Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision</b>	Cllr Alan Cockburn Deputy Leader
<b>Date of Decision</b> (not before: 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2013)	21/06/2013

**Decision Taken**

That I, as Deputy Leader:

- 1) Approve the tender for the provision of Statutory Advocacy, Complaints Advocacy, Specialist Ad-hoc Advocacy, Appointee and Money Management services, user involvement service for Mental Health and user empowerment service for Learning Disabilities;
- 2) Support the use of a procurement framework , with our sub-regional partners Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, with Warwickshire as the lead authority; and
- 3) Authorise the Strategic Director for People Group and the Strategic Director for Communities Group to enter into all relevant contracts for the provision of Advocacy, Appointee and Money Management on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources Group.

**Reasons for Decisions**

Option 5, as outlined in the decision report, is the recommended option as it meets the defined criteria, meets the Council’s business requirements and delivers the widest benefits. This option proposes commissioning a procurement framework for statutory advocacy, complaints and specialist ad-hoc advocacy services, and appointee and money management, covering all client groups with sub-regional partner authorities; with each commissioner specifying the levels of services they will commission as part of the framework.

It is expected that budget re-provision will be made from the realignment of existing budgets within the People Group to manage current budget pressures and mitigate against future demand, which is planned to be progressively refined in conjunction with the Finance Team during the life of the project.

**Background Information**

The social care concordat ‘Putting People First’, aims to transform the way social care is delivered to give people more control over their care and support. It recognises that transformation through personal budgets, early intervention and prevention requires ‘universal information, advice and advocacy’ and calls on local authorities to develop such services.

The Department of Health’s ‘Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities & Active Citizens’ states that Councils have a role to ensure that people can access information and advice whether using a personal budget or their own funds.

A strategic review of Warwickshire’s current Information, Advice and Advocacy services highlighted that:

- Service provision and access has not been equitable across the range of people who are vulnerable or have a disability.
- Demand is currently exceeding the capacity of existing service provision resulting in the use of ad hoc spot purchasing arrangements.
- There have been no common quality standards applied to services across the county.

In addition, in April 2013 new information, advice and advocacy responsibilities have been transferred from the NHS to local Authorities.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 transfers the responsibility to provide advocacy for NHS complainants from the Department of Health to all top-tier local authorities in the country. In Warwickshire, this responsibility will be with the Communities Group as part of the remit of the Public Health Business Unit.

In addition, as a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the responsibility to deliver advocacy services to mental health patients and/ or their carers, known as Independent Mental Health Advocacy – IMHA and others under the care of NHS, i.e. health advocacy services have also transferred from the Primary Care Trust to Warwickshire County Council as part of the activity of the Public Health Business Unit.

Therefore, there is a business requirement to redesign existing Information, Advice and Advocacy services to ensure appropriate and equitable supply and accessibility of services, increase capacity, improve quality and ensure that the Council continues to meet its statutory duties.

### Financial Implications

Funding for the Public Health statutory advocacy services will be provided to Warwickshire via a number of existing and new government grants, as part of the transfer of public health responsibilities to Warwickshire County Council.

The total annual cost of Advocacy, Appointee and Money Management contracts for Warwickshire is £674,628 per annum, with total cost over the life of the contract totalling £2.696.000. The proposed procurement framework is for four years duration (2+2 with a refresh after two years if required), and the proposed breakdown of the proposed services and lots is detailed in the spread-sheet attached as appendix 2

Sub-regional partners have expressed and indicated elements they wish to access within the procurement framework; at this time the exact volumes and budgets have still to be determined. This information will be confirmed in time for the formal tender timelines once budgets and savings targets have been agreed within their authorities.

<b>Report Author</b>	William Campbell, Claire Hall and Monika Rozanski
<b>Head of Service</b>	Chris Lewington and John Linnane
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Wendy Fabbro and Monica Fogarty
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Alan Cockburn

## Checklist

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or Exempt?</b> (State the category of exempt information)	N/a
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

### List of Reports considered - please attach a copy of the report

Published report from report author.

### List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers

None.

### Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Alan Cockburn  
 All Strategic Directors  
 Legal – Alison Hallworth, Vicky Newbold, Jane Pollard  
 Finance – Liz Firmstone  
 Equality – Minakshee Patel  
 Democratic Services – Georgina Atkinson