

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 6th October 2009

RE: Walsall LINK Re-tender Update

Purpose

This briefing note has been written to bring the SC&I Scrutiny Panel up to date on the progress of the Walsall LINK procurement procedure for a new LINK Host Organisation.

Progress to date

- The Procurement procedure for re-tender of the Walsall LINK (Local Involvement Network), commenced on the 8 May 2009, with the Statutory notice being placed in the OJEU.
- The re-tender was in response to a decision taken by full Cabinet on 22 April 2009 to terminate the contract of the existing service provider (Carers Federation) under Section 23 of their contract with Walsall MBC. The proposed termination was subject to scrutiny on the 26 March 2009 prior to approval by Cabinet.
- The required 90-day notice was served on Carers Federation on 4 August 2009, expiring on the 1 November 2009 (Sunday). The new service provider will be in place on Monday 2 November. Carers Federation have been made fully aware of these arrangements, and we continue to update them regarding progress towards the termination of their contract.
- Carers Federation were receptive to continuing to provide their service and to the “post dating” of the 90-day notice to the 4 August 2009. This will provide many things, but specifically a seamless transition to the new provider, support and security for their staff in Walsall and of course continuing support for the LINK board and membership.
- The procurement process started on 8 May for expressions of interest and to request PQQ documents, and closed on 8 June. Completed PQQ’s were required to be received no later than 12.00 on the 15th June. Five PQQ submissions were received and all were invited to submit a full tender by 6 July 2009. Three organisations returned a tender submission.
- To ensure a robust and fair procedure, site visits were arranged with all applicants on the 24 and 25 August, with representatives of all interested parties, including NHS Walsall, the LINK board,

Equality and Diversity Team, Social Care, and a representative from the SC&I Scrutiny panel through Councillor Woodruff.

- Interviews were held on 27 August, with the panel comprising the above representative.

After the interview procedures and technical assessments were completed, the scores given were aggregated and collated and a percentage result achieved. The scores were as follows:

- Black Country Housing Group 62.4%
- Shaw Trust 49.8%
- Walsall Endeavours 43.4%

- As a result the contract was awarded to BCHG under the Alcatel ruling (10 day standstill). There was no challenge to the award of the contract, and BCHG were officially awarded the contract on the 21 September 2009.

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