

Powys County Council, Adult Social Care Action plan Wales Audit Office Report regarding Domiciliary Contract Letting to Alpha Care

WAO Recommendation							
<p>1. The Authority should ensure that the weaknesses and / or deficiencies in the arrangements established to let the current domiciliary care contract are not replicated in any future domiciliary care procurement exercise. These include deficiencies in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and accountability • The way the contract was structured • Information made available to tenderers; and • The way in which tenders were evaluated 							
PCC Outline Response and indicative measures of success (show an understanding of the recommendation and what a successful response to it is likely to achieve)							
<p>Much of this work is already underway following completion of the earlier CSSIW Action Plan. To aid coordination of required actions, a number of actions from the CSSIW Action Plan are also included below for completeness. The Local Authority is committed to strong and effective commissioning arrangements, and has worked to ensure that all staff involved in the development of commissioning initiative, contracts, and tender evaluation are appropriately trained and follow corporate protocol. This includes agreement and adherence to clear governance arrangements for both the strategic planning of health and adult social care services under the umbrella of the Health and Adult Social Care Leadership Board and the commissioning / tender evaluation requirements that result from this strategic planning.</p> <p>As the Council progresses its journey as a 'commissioning council' we have established the Cabinet led Commissioning and Procurement board in order to ensure oversight of commissioning and procurement activity across the council as a whole.</p>							
 <p>CSSIW final action plan December 2015</p>							
Response Owner				Response Ref:			
Action Ref:	Action	Outcome	Start Date	Target Date	Responsible Officer	Comments	RAG Rating
1.1	All future commissioning	Governance and	June 2015	Embed in	Joy Garfitt		

	activity is aligned to Health and Adult Social Care Integrated Leadership Programme (HASCILB) and / or Adult Social Care Service Improvement Plan	Accountability structures will be agreed and communicated ahead of the start of all commissioning activity.		business as usual			
1.2	Governance for commissioning activity is directed through the respective partnership board to HASCLIB and onto PCC Cabinet and PTHB Board.	Ongoing monitoring and scrutiny of commissioning activity will be assured at appropriate levels within PCC and PtHB	June 2015	Embed in business as usual	Joy Garfitt		
1.3	PCC's existing Commissioning Toolkit will be enhanced through development of guidance around contract development, including consideration of contract size and value respective to market conditions / capacity	Future contracts size and values will be aligned to market requirements / provider capacity	February 2016	March 2016	Gail Jones		
1.4	Governance arrangements to include scrutiny of adherence to Corporate project management processes	Project Initiation Document to include governance agreed at thematic boards and HASCILB	February 2016	Embed in business as usual	Joy Garfitt		
1.5	PCC's existing Commissioning Toolkit will be enhanced through development of guidance around the development of	Improved quality of information provided to Tenderers	February 2016	March 2016	Gail Jones		

	ITT's						
1.6	Revise guidance for tender evaluation, and recording of evaluation undertaken on BRAVO	Improved tender evaluation, and evaluation recording	February 2016	March 2016	Gail Jones		
1.7	Commission support from IPC to identify best practice, and to recommend future domiciliary care commissioning model	Best practice model developed. Market Position Statement produced. Recommendations identified for future procurement method	Nov 2015	March 2016	Joy Garfitt		
1.8	Workshop to be held with all commissioning and procurement managers around tender evaluation	Improved understanding and tender evaluation skills	Feb 2016	Embed in business as usual	Gail Jones		
PI Ref:	Measure of Success - These measures will be monitored through the Council's Quarterly Business Meeting (comprising of the Portfolio Member, Scrutiny Lead (observing role), Director of Social Services.		Baseline 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18		
	The rate of delayed transfer of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 or over						
	Re-ablement clients complete a period of re-ablement (where outcomes have been achieved)						
	Number of tenders successfully let with no issue identified during contract initiation period.						
	Provider Forum feedback on quality of ITT's						
	Provider Forum feedback on quality appropriateness of contract size(s) commissioned						
	Reduction in missed domiciliary care calls						

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<p>2. In order to meet the challenges of transforming its service delivery in the light of reduced financial resources and increasing demand, the Authority has adopted a clearly defined commissioning and procurement strategy.</p> <p>We recommend that the Authority consider whether the issues raised in this report have wider relevance for the successful delivery of its commissioning and procurement strategy, and undertake a review of its processes for developing and letting major contracts. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that the governance arrangements for developing, scrutinising and approving contracting exercises are appropriate and are working in practice.</p>							
PCC Outline Response and indicative measures of success (show an understanding of the recommendation and what a successful response to it is likely to achieve)							
<p>A suite of integrated commissioning strategies are being developed in partnership between PCC and PtHB. The Learning Disabilities, Substance Misuse, and Carers' commissioning Strategies are all agreed, and works on the Older Peoples, Assistive Technology, and PDSL Strategies are all advanced.</p> <p>The requirement to develop sustained market development to deliver the commissioning intentions within each of these strategies has also led to the establishment of thematic provider / engagement forums. This is already realising benefits of developing greater social capital and partnerships between the Council and partners. Care Forum Wales are an active member of appropriate forums and continue to work closely with the Council to facilitate market development.</p>							
Response Owner				Response Ref:			
Action Ref:	Action	Outcome	Start Date	Target Date	Responsible Officer	Comments	RAG Rating
2.1	Resourcing change capacity is required. This covers managerial and leadership capacity and corporate capacity and	Capacity and capability to ensure effective delivery with minimum disruption to 'business as usual' services.	01/02/16	30/4/16	David Powell	MTFS to reflect this in spend to save and contingency budgets	

	capability for legal, HR, finance and IT. Governance processes are adequately supported. This needs to be reflected in financial plans.						
2.2	Commissioning & Procurement Strategy – Review and Update	To ensure that the Council’s current strategic intent is reflected	01/02/16	31/5/16	Gail Jones		
2.3	Ensure overall co-ordination of commissioning activity in the Council through the Head of Professional Services and Commissioning taking a lead role in the Head of Service group for this area	Better awareness of the linkages between activities and support for the resourcing requirements	01/02/16	30/3/16	Jason Lewis	Role has been discussed with post holder	
2.4	Increase capacity to support transformation and co-ordinate commissioning at a corporate level. The 2016/17 budget includes funding for a new post of Professional Lead of Transformation and Commissioning	The links between commissioning and transformation will be strengthened to deliver the balanced MTFS savings. A strengthening of the corporate capacity will help co-ordinate the programme management capacity	08/02/16	31/5/16	Jason Lewis	Built into budget from April 2016	
2.5	Processes for developing major contracts – Alignment of programme office Project/Gateway process for major projects	All relevant services are aware and/or involved in the commissioning and /or procurement of major contracts	08/02/16	31/3/16	Andrew Durant/Gail Jones		

2.6	<p>Define 'major contracts'; Establish criteria eg Length of contract Value Risk to citizens For Sign off by C&P Board</p>	<p>A consistent corporate understanding of what constitutes a major contract. This will enable appropriate resource allocation</p>	08/02/16	31/3/16	Jason Lewis/Gail Jones		
2.7	<p>Processes for letting major contracts Awareness raising/training for relevant staff regarding required information for specifications and Invitations to Tender Enhanced evaluator training and guidance before each procurement event</p>	<p>All relevant staff understand the necessity for quality data, timescales, diligence etc To ensure that evaluators understand their role in awarding public money to a 3rd party and in protecting the Council from risk</p>	08/02/16	30/6//16	Gail Jones		
2.8	<p>Governance arrangements: Enhance the role of the C&P Board to include sign – off for major commissioning and procurement activity Projects sponsors/ HOS to</p>	<p>To ensure that the appropriate balance of input is gained for each project to ensure that it is delivered in time, within the financial envelope and with the minimum of risk. Increased accountability and transparency for the delivery of contract related activity</p>	08/02/16	31/12/16	Jason Lewis	On-going but end date reflects reporting back process	

	<p>report to C&P Board on progress of major commissioning and procurement events</p> <p>Professional Services to be integral to commissioning and/or procurement projects that may result in the procurement of major contracts. This will provide oversight and a consistent approach.</p>						
2.9	<p>Scrutiny - C&P Board has oversight of all planned major procurement events and progress against them</p> <p>The scrutiny committees' work programmes will be reviewed to ensure appropriate reviews are in place for major activities</p>	<p>To ensure awareness and challenge of progress against the delivery of key projects. It is critical that enough time and resource is allocated to deliver the required outcome and minimise contract extension requirements</p>	08/02/16	31/12/16	<p>Jason Lewis</p> <p>Wynne Richards</p>		
2.10	<p>Effective review processes for contracting and commissioning activity:</p> <p>Review on completion of each major contract and commissioning exercise.</p> <p>Production of closure report and handover to service area</p>	<p>To ensure not only learning but that services consistently deliver good procurement and commissioning. By establishing what went well and what didn't during a particular activity lessons can be learned and shared for use with</p>	08/02/16	30/6/16	Gail Jones		

	for contract monitoring. Regular reporting to C&P Board	subsequent exercises					
2.11	Funding to be in place so that decision making is supported by data and appropriate analysis. Permanent base budget funding for the Business Intelligence Unit is required	To ensure all contract related activity is based on sound data	08/02/16		David Powell	Built in to MTFS as a permanent change from 17/18. Current posts funded from Management of Change	
2.12	A review of the finance function will take place to look at capacity and capability to meet the transformation agenda required by the three year balance MTFS	An ability to meet the requirement for management accounting data and support decision making through appropriate financial information	08/02/16	30/4/16	David Powell/Jason Lewis	Review commissioned for S151 Officer	
2.13	An assessment of the Commercial Services capacity and capability to help support the transformation agenda required by the three year balance MTFS	An ability to meet the requirement for commercial advice and support decision making through appropriate advice and challenge	08/02/16	31/5/16	Jason Lewis/Gail Jones		
2.14	Market Development capacity is needed to meet the requirements of the contract packaging or the service specifications. We need to work with providers and markets to develop service provision. This is a	Access to this expertise and the ability to deploy it at the start of the commissioning cycle will improve likelihood of success	08/02/16	30/4/16	Jason Lewis/Gail Jones		

	different skill to procurement or purchasing and requires expertise. An assessment of our ability is needed and a resourcing plan. A report will go to the C&P Board				
PI Ref:	Measure of Success - These measures will be monitored through the Council's Quarterly Business Meeting (comprising of the Portfolio Member, Scrutiny Lead (observing role), Director of Social Services.	Base Line 2015/16	Target 2016/17	Target 2017/18	

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3. Audit work undertaken previously by the Auditor General in 2010 and 2014 on the Authority’s whistleblowing policies identified that ‘there was often a lack of an audit trail to support key decisions and events. Some key decisions were not documented and there were instances of key documents or supporting information not being found or not existing.’

Similar issues are identified in this report. The review recommended about should also consider the extent to which adequate documentation is produced and retained to support key decisions made when developing and letting tenders.

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The WAO report highlighted a series of risks around document management.

As a service we are aware of the challenges of maintaining appropriate records and approval of all change initiatives during the ongoing high level of change required across all public services. The service is currently working to identify opportunities to standardise record management processes through greater use of technology and appropriate software packages.

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3.1	Review existing ‘un-structured data’ held in personal and shared drives for social care.	Improved management of critical data that sits outside the core DRAIG system.	March 2016	June 2016	Andrew Durant	Improving Information Governance, including data owners and data management around information that sits outside the core system	
3.2	Implement WCCIS reducing external data sources e.g. spreadsheets	WCCIS is the main social care repository. Remove the need to hold	Currently running	Dec 2016	Caroline Pears	Implementation of the National WCCIS will	

		operational data outside the system.				consolidate information	
3.3	Implement corporate share-point and improve document storage capability	Improved Information Governance for non WCCIS social care data e.g. policies etc.	Mar 2016	Components in place Q1 2016/17. Social care operational Q3 2016/17	Andrew Durant	Share-point is part of improving the corporate set of systems.	
3.4	Implement a modern up to date Finance system that integrates to WCCIS	Joined up financial information and processes removing the need for manual integration	April 2016	Mar 2017	Jason Lewis	Discussions have commenced with potential providers	
PI Ref:	Measure of Success - These measures will be monitored through the Council's Quarterly Business Meeting (comprising of the Portfolio Member, Scrutiny Lead (observing role), Director of Social Services.		Target 2015/16	Target 2016/17	Target 2017/18		