Glasgow City Council

Contracts and Property Committee

Report by: Chief Officer, Glasgow City HSCP

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Item 1

16th June 2022

Permission to Make a Direct Award for Social Care Agency Staff (COVID-19: Emergency Measures in Relation to Procurement of Health and Social Care Contracts)

Purpose of Report:

1) To advise Contracts and Property Committee of continuing staffing situations within Glasgow City Council Residential Care Homes for Older People and Care at Home Services (together "Operational Care Services").

2) To note approval of a time limited contractual arrangement with Caledonia Healthcare Limited for social care agency staff.

Recommendations:

Contracts and Property Committee) is asked to:

a) Note that the Chief Executive agreed the following under delegated powers on the grounds of urgency:

- Approval of the direct award of a time limited contract for the supply of social care agency staff as set out in section 2.

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Glasgow City Council Operational Care Services, “the Service”, continues to experience significant staffing shortages attributable to the COVID 19 pandemic. The Omicron variant and increased infection rate across the population has exacerbated staffing issues across Care at Home and Care Home services who are delivering life and limb services across the City.

1.2 On 26th August 2021, Contracts and Property Committee gave permission to make a direct award to Caledonia Healthcare under the COVID-19: Emergency Measures in Relation to Procurement of Health and Social Care Contracts. The approved paper can be found here: https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/councillorsandcommittees/submissiondocuments.asp?submissionid=101804

1.3 These Service have confirmed that both Care at Home and Care Homes continue to be reliant on Caledonia Healthcare and ensure the delivery of essential and critical care service provision. This is particularly relevant considering sustained pressures across the system and the key operational priority of supporting safe discharges from hospital sites. There is an ongoing focus on delayed discharges in Glasgow at a City, Health Board and a National level.

1.4 The end date for the direct award is 31st March 2022. Due to unforeseen circumstances principally related to the Omicron variant, it continues to be essential to the Service that Caledonia Healthcare can be called upon to provide staff across the City.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The rates for Caledonia healthcare are as follows:

CARE HOMES		
SHIFT TIME BANDS	**DAYS**	**RATE**
08:00-20:00 hours	Monday – Sunday	£16.85
20:00-08:00 hours	Monday – Sunday	£21.43
Public Holidays (all hours)	As Specified	£31.70

CARE AT HOME		
SHIFT TIME BANDS	**DAYS**	**RATE**
07:00 – 11:00 hours	Monday – Sunday	16.95
11:00 – 16:00 hours	Monday – Sunday	16.95
16:00 – 22:00 hours	Monday - Sunday	16.95
Public Holidays (all hours)	As Specified	32.00

2.2 Due to the uncertainty of the agency market-place and the ongoing challenges for this sector in terms of recruitment, together with the ongoing variable impact of COVID-19 on direct service delivery, Committee is requested to authorise that the agreement period be from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

3. PROCUREMENT APPROACH

3.1 Following consultation with colleagues within Corporate Procurement and Legal services, the decision has been taken to pursue permissions under the COVID-19: Emergency Measures in Relation to Procurement of Health and Social Care Contracts. The value of the award means that committee approval is required.

3.2 In coming to its decision HSCP officers referred as was required to the Scottish Government's guidance:

SPPN 4/2020 – https://www.gov.scot/publications/procurement-regulations-during-covid-19-outbreak-sppn-4-2020/

SPPN 6/2020 - https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-making-best-use-of-procurement-resources-during-covid-19-outbreak-sppn-6-2020/

which recognise that as coronavirus is serious and its consequences pose a risk to life – the ability to award contracts directly is designed to deal with this sort of exceptional, unforeseeable and urgent situation.

4. SERVICE IMPLICATIONS & CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

4.1 Commissioning, Finance, and Service colleagues will work with CPU and the provider to ensure contract and provider monitoring is in line with those used for existing social care agency arrangements.

4.2 Monthly reports on usage and performance will be made available to the Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer.

5. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Resource Implications:

Financial: The total cost of this arrangement based on current rates and usage is likely to be £1,564,00 for the period 1st April 2022– 31st March 2023.

These costs will be met from the HSCP budget.

Financial governance arrangements are robust and GCHSCP Finance Officers will support GCHSCP contract monitoring arrangements.

Legal:	Due to the fact the Contracts and Property Committee was in recess, the Chief Executive acted on behalf of the Council in this matter. Standing Orders provide direction as follows: “in the event that no committee is available to accept contracts in excess of the amounts stated at (b) above such as during a period of recess or the pre-election period, to award such contracts on behalf of the Council provided Council and EU procurement policy has been followed and the tender represents best value, with any such approval being reported to the first available meeting of the Contracts and Property Committee.”
Personnel:	There are no personnel implications for the Council as a result of this report.
Procurement:	Consideration has been given to the usage of existing local and national arrangements. All requirements will be met as set out within the Emergency COVID-19 Legislation under which this award is being sought.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council’s Equality Outcomes 2017-22?	Yes.
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	Positive impact will be achieved by ensuring consistent and enabling support can continue to be provided to those in need of the Service.
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.	

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental:	N/A
Social, including opportunities under Article 20 of the European Public Procurement Directive:	By developing person-centred approaches, promoting good health and wellbeing, building resilience and confidence, including promoting positive engagement with their local communities.
Economic:	Commitment to ensuring that the agency will demonstrate commitment to maintaining a well-managed, motivated and properly remunerated workforce
Privacy and Data Protection impacts:	Provider will be required to comply with GDPR, the Council's Privacy, Data Sharing and Data Protection policy requirements.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Contracts and Property Committee) is asked to:

a) Note that the Chief Executive agreed the following under delegated powers on the grounds of urgency:

- Approval of the direct award of a time limited contract for the supply of social care agency staff as set out in section 2.