
To: Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

On: 24 November 2017

Report by: Chief Officer

Heading: Update on Capability Scotland

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an updated position, following the Integration Joint Board (IJB) Meeting on 15 September 2017 on Capability Scotland day care services for adults with learning disabilities in Renfrewshire.
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2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the IJB:

- Note the current position regarding the Capability Scotland as outlined within Section 4 of this report; and
 - Note the planned next steps detailed in Section 5 of the report.
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3. Background

- 3.1 Capability Scotland operates two day services in Renfrewshire for adults with a learning disability, Whitehaugh and West Lane Gardens, on behalf of the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). These services are building based and remain popular with current service users.
- 3.2 In July 2017, Capability Scotland served formal notice to the HSCP Chief Officer on their intention to withdraw from their current contract on 20 October 2017, noting the current service model has accrued significant annual financial deficits and no longer is seen by Capability Scotland to be financially viable going forward. The timescale for closure was then extended to 31st Jan 2018 following agreement between the Chief Officer and Capability Scotland to meet any financial shortfall that the provider may incur and to allow sufficient time to manage a smooth transition for service users. This decision was in keeping with the contractual obligations to provide a 6 month notice period and was endorsed at the IJB meeting on 15 September 2017. The additional financial cost is £11K per month.
- 3.3 Although Capability Scotland have re-stated their intention to cease provision of this service a further agreement has now been reached to extend the timescale until 30 April 2017 to allow further time to plan the transition arrangements for each of the 47 service users. This was communicated to all service users and their respective families on 10 October 2017.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 43 service users/families have now had meetings with staff from Renfrewshire Learning Disability Service (RLDS) and Locality Team staff to discuss service user preferences about services they wish to benefit from, Self-Directed Support (SDS)

budgets, and begin to plan for agreed outcomes. This process has been supported by Capability Scotland staff using a bespoke user friendly questionnaire based around the four main themes of the National Strategy "Keys to Life". You First Advocacy have been involved as and when required to support service users with the process.

- 4.2 As part of the discussions with families there has been initial liaison work with the Community Link Team within Renfrewshire HSCP to map out and identify what mainstream community opportunities may be appropriate for some of the service users attending Capability Scotland Day Services. This would be an opportunity for some people to utilise their SDS budgets to access community based activities (with support) across Renfrewshire. In addition to this a small number of service users have expressed an interest in the Community Networks Service currently based in Spinners Gate, Paisley. Staff have been encouraged to support an early transition into alternative provision where possible and to consider any requirement for a parallel process (short term double funding) to facilitate the transition. Although further discussions need to take place, it is clear that for most service users the friendships and peer support is what they value the most within each of the two centres.
- 4.3 Initial discussions have taken place with Capability Scotland regarding an alternative service model in Renfrewshire and an outline plan has been submitted to the Chief Officer, however further discussions will take place to test if this option is both financially viable and in keeping with national policy direction. We are also progressing plans to extend capacity in our own Community Networks service including exploring this service operating within the Johnstone area.
- 4.4 A market testing exercise also took place on 23 October 2017 with the Chief Officer, the Councils Procurement Unit and a number of third sector organisations. This was an invitation via Public Contracts Scotland to external providers to gauge interest in a provider taking on the 2 day services.
- 4.5 It was proposed that a market testing exercise should be undertaken to ascertain the level of interest from providers in delivering these services, based on the existing model of service delivery. Seven providers attended a facilitation session and three of the providers have since signalled an interest to participate in the next stage of the process. This will include being provided with more detailed information relating to the provision of the existing service. This would include detailed information on cost, staffing and the buildings from which the service is provided.
- 4.6 In taking this forward, discussions with potential providers have been clear that the current service provided by Capability will close on 30 April 2018, that a continuation of the existing service will be subject to ongoing discussions to ensure the service has an agreed approach to modernising consistent with the National Keys to Life Strategy and that our commitment is to ensure service users have an up-to-date assessment, access to an SDS budget and are supported and guided to access modern services that reflect assessed need.

5. Next Steps

5.1. Key next steps include:

- Progressing discussions with all service users and family members/carers regarding assessed needs, SDS budgets, individual preferences and progressing towards having clear individual care plans based on agreed service choices;

- Progressing our plans to extend our Community Networks service and working with capability Scotland to consider their proposed community service model
 - Progressing the market testing process with any provider interested in taking on the existing service as set out above
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – notes that the existing contract has been extended until April 2018.
 2. **HR & Organisational Development** – Nil.
 3. **Community Planning** – Nil
 4. **Legal** – proposes the continuation the existing contract to allow the required six month notice to be given
 5. **Property/Assets** – the report notes that Capability Scotland currently lease two buildings from the Council to deliver services in Renfrewshire
 6. **Information Technology** – Nil.
 7. **Equality & Human Rights** – this report relates to social care services provided for one care group - Learning Disabilities service users and their carers
 8. **Health & Safety** – Nil
 9. **Procurement** – proposes the continuation the existing contract to allow the required six month notice to be given.
 10. **Risk** – as highlighted within the report.
 11. **Privacy Impact** – Nil
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List of Background Papers - None.

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