

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care
Date:	25 November 2015
Title:	Employment for people with a disability
Reference:	6999
Report From:	Interim Director of Adult Services

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1. The decision:

- a) That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care give approval to go out to tender and award a contract for a supported employment service for people with a Learning disability and to include scope for young people and adults with a disability who live in Hampshire. The contract to be awarded on a 4 year 2+1+1 basis with an annual contract value of up to £620,000 and a total contract value of up to £2,480,000, to commence on 4 July 2016.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Through consultation in relation to Hampshire's Learning Disability Plan service users and their carers were clear that they wanted increased opportunities to move into employment.
- 2.2. Hampshire County Council commissions these services in relation to ASCOF (Adult Social Care Outcome Framework) measure 1E "Proportion of adults with a learning disability in paid employment". This places an obligation on local authorities to measure this activity and to take steps to improve performance in relation to it. Similar measurements also exist within the NHS Outcome Framework and the Public Health Outcome Framework.
- 2.3. Employment is also a key element in drivers such as Valuing People Now and in relation to the wellbeing agenda articulated in the Care Act 2014.
- 2.4. Improved access to employment, with support funded through "Access to work" funds will lead to improved outcomes for individuals, their families and communities and ongoing cost savings for the County Council.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. *Do not commission a new employment service* - Individuals who have undergone a work capability assessment, assessed as not capable and placed in the Employment Support Allowance (ESA) “support group” are not a strategic priority for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The DWP consider this group to have such severe health problems that there is no current prospect of their being able to undertake work or work-related activities. Without Adult Services led initiatives, people in the ESA Support Group would have no clear route into employment and could remain Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) for the rest of their lives. This is highly likely to increase their reliance on funded services at a time when resources are under increasing pressure.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: Not applicable

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

25 November 2015

**Executive Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Liz Fairhurst**