



To: Health & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2015

Notes of: Committee Administrator

## **IMPROVING STANDARDS OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE – RECOMMISSIONING OF HOMECARE SERVICES**

### **Background**

1. At the September, 2014 meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel, Mike Banks of Lancashire County Council (LCC) provided information on various issues including improvements to the domiciliary care service.
2. This included a proposal to reduce the number of homecare providers LCC traded with, and improved terms and conditions for staff employed in the home care sector.
3. At the last meeting of the Panel, Members agreed to continue work on this aspect of social care, paying particular attention to the current recommissioning of homecare services for older adults and people with a physical disability.

### **Update**

4. The recommissioning of homecare services will result in the number of homecare providers with LCC contracts being reduced from over 130 to less than 30 and will affect 5,800 homecare customers.
5. Terms and conditions for staff employed in the homecare sector will be improved.
6. There will be improved monitoring, training, investment and relationships with providers.
7. The primary purpose of the project is to drive up the quality of care. There will be no reduction in the amount of care LCC commission across Lancashire and no reduction in the number of staff employed in the care sector.
8. The new contracts will have robust quality requirements and penalties for non-compliance.

## Current Position

9. LCC advise that the procurement of new homecare contracts is running to schedule and a decision to award the contracts is scheduled to be made by LCC elected members on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.
10. Once the decision is made, in accordance with LCC's implementation plan, providers will be notified and the new contracts will commence from 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015.
11. Affected service users will be notified of the changes in early November and, in line with LCC's drive to increase choice and control, service users will be offered the choice to either –
  - Apply for a direct payment and use the provider of their choice using their individual budget (this option allows service users to retain their existing provider if they wish)
  - For LCC to continue to manage and arrange their care and support (this will mean that their support will transfer to one of the new providers between January and June, 2016)
12. LCC's Cabinet Member for Adult and Community Services, County Councillor Tony Martin, will attend the meeting to provide further information and answer Members' questions.

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