

To - Health & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting - 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

Notes of - Committee Administrator

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

### **Background**

1. At the last meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel, Members considered a briefing note which provided an update on Lancashire County Council's (LCC's) proposals to recommission homecare services for older adults and people with a physical disability.
2. This had included a proposal to reduce the number of homecare providers with LCC contracts from over 130 to less than 30 and would affect 5,800 homecare customers.
3. The Panel had previously been advised that the project had reached its third phase, which involved a two stage competitive tender process, and was running to schedule, with new contracts expected to commence from 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015.
4. However, at the last meeting it was reported that the process had been discontinued as it had become apparent that it was vulnerable to challenge.
5. As this decision had been taken very late in the process, the Panel was concerned about the effect on the agencies concerned and the timescale in which agencies were notified of the decision.
6. It was expected that a new procurement process would commence in the next three months and was anticipated to be concluded in summer 2016 with the appointment of framework providers.

### **Update**

7. LCC confirm that homecare providers were advised of the decision to discontinue the process at a late stage, with notification provided on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, and that they have since been reassured about their current contracts.

8. Although it was expected that a new procurement process would conclude in summer 2016, LCC now advise that all re-procurement activity has been paused so that the position can be re-evaluated.
9. In the interim, steps are being taken to reassure and stabilise the homecare provider sector.
10. LCC's Head of Commissioning has met with representatives of the homecare provider forum to discuss future direction and an update will be provided to a future meeting.

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