

## **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH MIDLAND HEART FOR LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES**

**Report By: LD Accommodation & Support Project Manager**

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide

### **Purpose**

1. To update the committee on the partnership agreement with Midland Heart, to provide accommodation and Support for Adults with a Learning Disability in Herefordshire.

### **Financial Implications**

2. No direct financial implications at this stage.

### **Background**

3. On the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008, Herefordshire Council Cabinet authorised officers to finalise the contractual terms and conditions and enter into a contract with Midland Heart. This decision was the final stage in a long and complex tender process in which officers in partnership with service users, family carers and staff identified a partner to manage and develop housing and support options for adults with a learning disability in Herefordshire.
4. The final work on the contract was completed and services transferred to Midland Heart during July and August 2008. The services transferred from two independent sector providers and Herefordshire Council. The transfer of services went smoothly due to the pre-work done by officers and Midland Heart to ensure its success.
5. The contract has an annual value for £3.3m (2008/9) and includes residential care, short break and supported living services, which currently support 80 individuals. The contract is for five years during which time Midland Heart will support an increased number of individuals for the same annual value (plus inflation at 2.5% per year)
6. The contract with Midland Heart requires them to work with individuals, their family carers and staff, to transform services, to offer increased independence and at the same time achieve better value for money for the Council.
7. This will be achieved by moving away from the provision of registered residential care to models of support which will offer people the opportunity to live in their own home or share with friends with support as needed.
8. Since Midland Heart have commenced the contract they have begun to review the services they have within the contract as well as prepare for the future changes and developments necessary to achieve the agreed transformation. Work already undertaken includes:

- A review of all current services they are managing including baseline quality audits.
  - Development of local office bases, IT systems etc
  - Induction for all staff and review of their training needs.
  - Building relationships with local providers, registered social landlords and key personnel within the council and PCT
9. Midland Heart have committed to a challenging transformation plan which will span the five years of their contract. This plan contains specific targets which if not achieved will directly impact on the income they receive from Herefordshire Council
10. In recognition of the challenge of the partnership, Herefordshire Council have allocated one day per week of a senior officer to work with them. Their role will be to ensure that Herefordshire Council supports and facilitates the necessary changes as well as fulfilling its commitments as outlined within the contract.
11. Within the first year of the contract there are a number of planned developments. These include:
- Development of a Housing Facilitation Team to work with younger disabled people to enable them to consider their housing and support options, to support them to access these choices and ensure they are settled and have ongoing support if needed. This is funded by additional Supporting People Grant money as a pilot for 18 months (January 2009)
  - Amalgamation of short-breaks onto one site at Southbank Close This will result in Herefordshire Council being able to offer longer-term accommodation for an additional 5 people with a learning disability at no additional cost. (March 2009)
  - £120k refurbishment plan for Ivy Close funded by Midland Heart (April to July 2009)
  - The development of Ivy Close as supported living for younger people with a learning disability linked to the local colleges (July 2009)
  - £100k refurbishment and development of the three bungalows at Southbank Close which offer longer-term care and support. This is being funded by Herefordshire PCT (January – March 2009)
  - Development of the resource centre on the Southbank Close site into 6 supported flats for people with a learning disability currently living with an older family carer. This is in partnership with Herefordshire Strategic Housing and will be subject to planning permission (late 2009)
  - Development of personalisation within the contract. Midland Heart are working with Simon Duffy (Chief Executive of InControl) to individualise funding within the contract and look at how they can support individuals to manage and direct their own services.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT subject to any comments that the Committee may want to make, the report be noted.**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None