

***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care -
Tuesday, 17 December 2013***

Statement of Decision

Present:

Councillor Mrs Judith Heathcoat, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Officers: Sara Livadeas and Alison Partridge (Social & Community Services); Julie Dean (Chief Executive's Office)

Healthwatch Oxfordshire

Documentation considered:

Report Healthwatch Oxfordshire

A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.

Cabinet Member's Comments

Councillor Heathcoat expressed her satisfaction to the responses given to her questions in relation to the public part of the report which were:

- that although there would not be a more formal contractual leverage contained within the Grant-in-Aid process, it would still allow quarterly meetings and a monitoring process;
- that the end of the 2 year contract period it would be possible to procure an additional 2 year period, plus an option to extend; and
- that Surrey County Council was the lead commissioner for 5 – 10 local authorities for the NHS Complaints Advocacy Service for April 2012/13

The Cabinet Member then expressed a wish to discuss Annex 1 to the report, and therefore **RESOLVED**: to exclude the public during the consideration of Annex 1 since it was likely that if they were present during that discussion there would be a disclosure of 'exempt' information as described in Part 1 of Schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972.

The information contained in Annex 1 was exempt in that it fell within the following prescribed category:

5 Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

It was considered that in this case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, in that such disclosure would be to the detriment of the Council's ability properly to carry out its duties as a

public authority and would distort the proper process of negotiations between the authority with another party for the purposes described and would prejudice the position of the authority in those negotiations and other negotiations of a similar nature in future.

She was satisfied with the officer's response.

Councillor Heathcoat then returned to Annex 2 to the public report (the Addenda) which provided information on the interview process.

Decision

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows:

to accept the preferred provider, as recommended and presented by the Director for Social & Community Services, for the award of the grant for Healthwatch Oxfordshire following the interviews which took place on 12 December 2013.

NB: Following the decision, the Cabinet Member was advised that the name of the preferred provider was EASI Healthwatch.

Signed
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Date