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| Reference: | FOI.11324.23 |
| Subject: | Integra Community Living Options Ltd |
| Date of Request: | 20 March 2023 |

Requested:

I would like to make a Freedom of Information Request for the following information relating to the commissioning contract that this Health Board has with Integra Community Living Options Ltd, which is part of the National Care Group:-

1. What is the value of the commissioning contract between the Health Board and Integra Community Living Options Ltd?
2. What is the start and end date of the commissioning contract with Integra Community Living Options Ltd?

In terms of the funding made available by the Welsh Government for the Real Living Wage uplift for registered care workers from 1st April 2022 please may I check:

3. What was the earliest date that these funds were available for successful access bids from providers?
4. On which date did Integra Community Living Options Ltd., submit an application to access these funds?
5. On which date were the funds released to Integra Community Living Options Ltd?
6. Please advise of any known obstacles or delays which may have contributed to the late release of these funds to Integra Community Living Options Ltd.
7. Please confirm the total amount of monies released to Integra Community Living Options Ltd, to fulfil the Real Living Wage uplift.
8. In terms of the calculation received from and the monies released to Integra Community Living Options Ltd, please confirm what proportion is attributable to:
 - Maintaining differentials for staff at the lower end of the scale?
 - Former employees who worked for Integra Community Living Options Ltd during the qualifying period?
9. What steps will the Health Board take, and when, to monitor whether the full amount of funds released to Integra Community Living Options Ltd have been distributed to the intended recipients?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it leads one (1) Integra placement contract which is jointly funded on an equal basis with Carmarthenshire County Council, with a weekly fee of £1,873.28.

Additionally, the UHB currently jointly funds a further twelve (12) placements with Integra Community Living Options Ltd that the Local Authorities (LAs) in Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire hold the contracts for.

2. The UHB confirms that the contract commenced on 1 April 2022 with no end date.
3. The UHB confirms that the funds were available for successful access bids from April 2022.
4. The UHB confirms that it received a letter from Integra on 29 September 2022 for the UHB to consider its request for the Real Living Wage (RLW) rate increase; no further detail on total cost impact or a breakdown of this was provided at the time of your request.
5. The UHB does not hold this information due to the commissioning arrangement. However, the UHB can confirm that as at the date of your request, no additional funds have been released over and above the annual Commissioning Care Assurance Performance System (CCAPS) rate refresh for the UHB led placement and the annual inflation agreed for the LA led contracts.

Should you require further information, we recommend that you contact the Freedom of Information Teams within each LA in the UHB's footprint, who may be able to help you further with your enquiry. For ease, their details are set out below:-

Information & Data Protection Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP or by email foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Complaints & Freedom of Information Team, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE or by email foi@ceredigion.gov.uk

Information Governance Team, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

6. The UHB does not know of any obstacles or delays which may have contributed to the late release of these funds to Integra Community Living Options Ltd.
7. The UHB confirms that it is currently in discussion with Pembrokeshire County Council and Integra Community Living Options Ltd regarding the requested funding; no payment has been made, as at the date of your request.
8. The UHB does not hold this information, as we have not received any details of the cost impact or a breakdown from Integra Community Living Options Ltd.
9. The UHB expects written assurance from Integra Community Living Options Ltd that any contribution is passed fully to staff.