

Questions raised by members of the public at the meeting of the People and Families Scrutiny Committee on 8 December 2016

1. Zoe Lagden (Family Action) Zoe.lagden@family-action.org.uk

Virgin Care and their company Healthcare Holdings have registered a deficit last year and therefore have they provided a guarantor?

RESPONSE:

Essex County Council has determined that a guarantor is not necessary for Virgin Care Services Ltd.

The Council reserves the right to request a guarantee where necessary (this may be a parent company guarantee, a bank bond, or performance bond). This would be required when a company receives a high or very high risk rating or other instances where the Council believes a guarantee may be required.

2. Anna Tomlins (Homestart)

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Everyone from both the statutory and voluntary sectors has worked hard over a long time to develop the new model responding to the needs of families in each locality. In view of the limited communication Virgin has had with Homestart, how can the Commissioners be reasonably satisfied with Virgin's commitment to local long-standing local organisations such as Homestart?

RESPONSE:

Virgin Care, in partnership with Barnardo's, will be delivering an integrated Pre-Birth to 19 service throughout Essex, with the aim of providing care and support for children, young people and families through the use of practitioner support, digital platforms, building community resilience and engaging with local community organisations.

Virgin Care has been limited in their communication due to the commissioning process, and now given the conclusion of the award process, Virgin will be able to engage in much more depth with all local organisations.

3. Graham Blowes (North East London Foundation Trust)

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Can you explain why only the summary scores for each criteria have been given, rather than the sub-criteria scores? Although they are not obliged to do so, it is common practice both locally and nationally to provide the detailed scores to each losing bidder.

RESPONSE:

I am confident that the process the Council has adopted and followed is sufficient and robust. The Council has provided scoring in terms of technical and commercial evaluation. The Council has effectively engaged with providers to explain the evaluation and provide feedback.