



Executive Director/Director Non-Key Executive Decision Report

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Ann Ellis,
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Support

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Report to: Dawn Walton, Director of Commissioning,
Inclusion and Learning

Date of Decision: *(Insert date decision to be taken)*

Subject: One year extension to contract for a Supported
Housing Alcohol Re-shape (Accommodation
Based Support) delivered by DISC (value
£188,022).

Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? Cabinet Member for Health and
Social Care

Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? Healthier
Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committees

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? *(Insert reference number)*

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes ☐ No ☒

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the
report and/or appendices and complete below:-

*"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information
under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local
Government Act 1972 (as amended)."*

Purpose of Report:

This report seeks approval to extend for one year Contract YORE-99L4C, which
pays for a residential supported accommodation service known as "The Greens"
for 21 people with problems of alcohol or drug dependency who are seeking to live
an abstinent life and who need to develop their independent living skills. This
contract was awarded in 2013 for a period of three years with an option to extend
for one year plus one year. The contract was extended for one year in October
2016. The contract was let and is managed by the Housing Independence Service
which is part of People Commissioning Service. The contract is delivered by DISC

who won the contract through an open procurement process.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Contract YORE-99L4C held by DISC to deliver a Supported Housing Alcohol Re-shape (Accommodation based Support) is extended for its final one year period from 14th October 2017 to 13th October 2018.

Background Papers:

Cabinet report: Delegated Decisions for Housing Related Support Commissioning Strategy and Budget Plan 2016-20.

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: Anna Sanderson, Finance Manager
		Legal: Henry Wattmough-Cownie, Solicitor
		Equalities: Louise Nunn, Development Manager
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	Lead Officer Name: Ann Ellis	Job Title: Strategic Commissioning Manager
	Date: 10 th July 2017	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to extend for one year Contract YORE-99L4C, which pays for a residential supported accommodation service known as “The Greens” for 21 people with problems of alcohol dependency who are seeking to live an abstinent life and who need to develop their independent living skills. Since November 2016, this criteria has been extended to also include people with problems of drug dependency. This contract was awarded in 2013 for a period of three years with an option to extend for one year plus one year. The contract has been extended for one year from October 2016. The contract was let and is managed by the Housing Independence Service which is part of Place Commissioning Service. The contract is delivered by DISC who won the contract through an open procurement process.
- 1.2 The service was initially for adults aged over 18 years who had an alcohol AUDIT score of 20 or above prior to detoxification/ abstinence. The

service is for people who have undergone a treatment programme to stop drinking and require continued support in a residential setting to maintain their abstinence and develop independent living skills. Since November 2016, the Council has waived the requirement to achieve an alcohol AUDIT score of 20, and broadened the original criteria to include people who have a drug dependency but are now 'clean' and wish to remain so. The widening of the criteria has been welcomed by referrers. This includes providers of the Recovery Pathway, with which the service works closely to ensure that people in recovery from alcohol or drug dependency are able to manage their recovery successfully. People with a history of alcohol or drug dependency are likely to make greater demands on a range of public services including high level/ high cost services such as hospitals and social care. They may become homeless and be unable to sustain settled accommodation.

- 1.3 If the proposal is agreed, it will mean that up to 21 people in Sheffield at any point in time will be able to receive support in a 'dry' residential setting. The support offered will enable vulnerable people, who have had significant problems with alcohol or drug dependency, to remain abstinent while they develop the skills required to live independently. Without this type of service these people may more readily return to drinking or drug taking and make renewed demands on health, social care and accommodation services.
- 1.4 The service has also faced under-occupancy in the past year, which meant the target set in the contract was not reached on average over the past year. In response to this, the service has carried out considerable work with potential referrers to address barriers to referrals. Currently, the service is fully occupied. The service is seeking to improve the percentage of positive moves from the service for service users. Some service users who experienced negative moves from the service, opted to return to The Greens for a further period of support at a later date and many achieved positive moves. It is not unusual for people with addictions to need more than one attempt at remaining abstinent and it suggests that service users recognise the benefits of the support provided by the service in supporting them in sustaining their recovery and gaining independent living skills.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 The proposal aligns to the following ambitions within Sheffield City Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18:
 - **Better Health and Wellbeing** - this proposal will support people to improve their health and wellbeing and support their recovery. Outcomes delivered last year by the service show that service users were supported to improve their mental health, physical health as well as drug and alcohol issues. The service also encourages service users to attend groups and services in the community.
 - **Tackling Inequalities** – this proposal will support service users to address health and wellbeing issues, support income maximisation

and support service users to develop skills to live independently.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 We consulted with stakeholders who provided positive feedback about the service. Agencies welcomed the extension of the eligibility criteria to include individuals with drug dependency as well as alcohol dependency. They commented that there was quick access to the service and that staff were supportive. DISC is viewed as an active participant in the recovery community. One referrer consulted felt that The Greens provided a really good service for the people they had referred. We interviewed a group of current service users who explained that they are encouraged to participate in voluntary work in the community. Service users valued the support provided by the staff as well as positive staff attitudes. Service users interviewed liked the structure provided by the group work at The Greens, as well as the sense of autonomy. Substantial service user consultation was undertaken prior to the commissioning of this contract.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out when the alcohol supported housing service was re-procured (EIA Ref 268 1415). The EIA identified no negative impacts for service users or for the workforce and identified positive outcomes for service users. Service use is demand led. The current client profile is more diverse than previously, although the majority are older (35-54) White men. The service carries out an annual fair access plan. There is no evidence that any people with protected characteristics will be disproportionately affected by extending the service for a further year.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no additional financial implications other than the continuing cost of the contract at £188,022 p.a. We believe the service continues to provide good value for money, in terms of costs and quality and not continuing to provide the contract for its final year would only put service users at risk and place financial and delivery pressure on other homeless and recovery services. This service is included within the budget for services commissioned by the Housing Independence Service for 2017-18 and within the budget forecast for 2018-19. In February 2016 Cabinet approved a four year costed commissioning plan which included this service in its costing. Over the next year a more detailed review of this service and other services for drug and alcohol recovery will be undertaken with a view to developing a five year plan for such services.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 On 17th February 2016 Cabinet approved the report *Delegated Decisions for Housing Related Support Commissioning strategy and Budget Plan 2016 to 2020*. The report made a number of recommendations including various delegations, the authority and reference for this report is:

(3) That in accordance with the high level commissioning strategy and this report, authority be delegated to the Director of Commissioning to:

(b) in consultation with the Director of Commercial Services and the Director of Legal and Governance award, vary or extend contracts for the provision of housing related support;

- 4.3.2 The contract was let in line with Council standing orders and the process was supported by the Council's Commercial Services. The terms and conditions of the contract were drafted by the Council's Legal Services and allow for the decision to extend the contract for one year to be taken.
- 4.3.3 The local authority is under a duty to prevent needs for care and support following implementation of the Care Act 2014. Under sections 2(1)(a) and (b) of the Act the authority must provide or arrange for the provision of services, facilities or resources, or take other steps which it considers will contribute towards preventing or delaying the development by adults in its area of needs for care and support; and to reduce the needs for care and support of adults in its area. Under sections 2(2)(a) and (b) a local authority in performing that duty must have regard to the importance of identifying services, facilities and resources already available in the authority's area and the extent to which the authority could involve or make use of them in performing that duty; and the importance of identifying adults in the authority's area with needs for care and support which are not being met (by the authority or otherwise).
- 4.3.4 The local authority is also under a duty to provide advice and assistance to persons in its area who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 An alternative option is to bring the contract to an end and decommission the service. This is not desirable as it would remove support in a residential setting from local people seeking to recover from serious alcohol and/ or drug problems. This may lead to increased homelessness, a return to drinking, and an inability to live independently in the community and maintain a stable lifestyle. This is likely to lead to increased demands on a range of public services.
- 5.2 Another option is to retender the service. This is not desirable as the

current provider is currently meeting the quality and occupancy target in the contract at the price agreed in 2013 and the contract allows for a further twelve month extension. Retendering the service will create uncertainty for the current provider and might lead to service disruption if the new contract was won by a different provider. It will also create commissioning costs for the Council.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The contract continues to be strategically important to the Council in delivering its objectives for local people with a history of alcohol dependency, and more recently drug dependency, and it is desirable that these objectives continue to be met.
- 6.2 Consultation with service users shows that they need this type of service to assist them in their recovery pathway
- 6.3 The current contract (YORE-99L4C) which expired on 13th October 2016 includes an option at Clause 2.1 to extend for one year at a time up to a total of two years. The contract has been extended for one year from 14th October 2016 until 13th October 2017 and there is the option to extend for a further year. The service represents good value for money in terms of costs and quality. This service is included within the budget for services commissioned by the Housing Independence Service for 2017-18 and within the budget forecast for 2018-19. In February 2016 Cabinet approved a four year costed commissioning plan which included this service in its costing.