



Executive Director/Director Non-Key Executive Decision Report

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Charlotte
Shepherd – Housing independence Officer

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Report to: Dawn Walton

Date of Decision: 11th September 2017

Subject: Contract Variation – Reconnections Service and
Sheffield Street Outreach

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

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

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:-

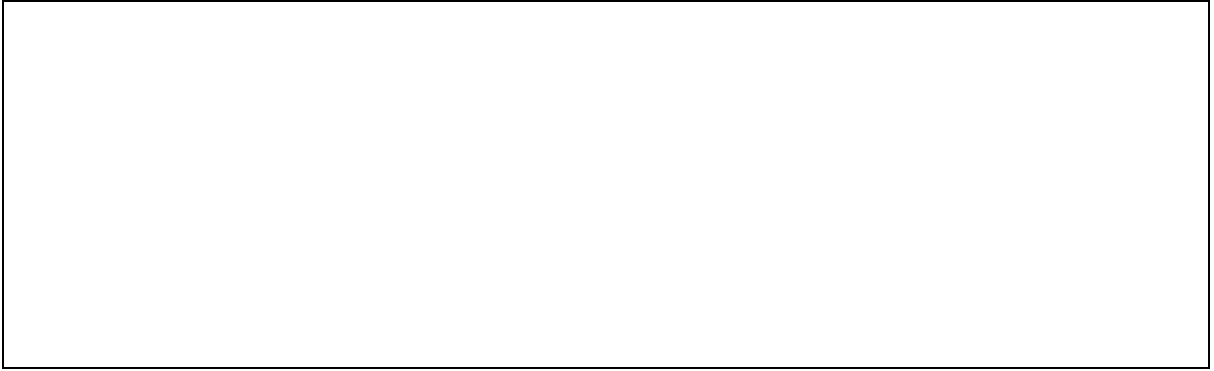
*“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information
under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local
Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*

Purpose of Report:

To allow the variation of Framework’s contract; *Sheffield Street Outreach*, to
include the provision of a Reconnections Service.

This will enable the service to provide an immediate response to people new to the
streets or at risk of rough sleeping who wish to return to their home, both in the UK
and overseas.

This will be facilitated by a payment of £3k per annum to Framework to fund
accommodation and travel arrangements. This funding is included within the
budget commissioned by the Housing Independence Service.



Recommendations:

To agree the contract variation enabling Framework to deliver a Reconnections Service throughout the lifetime of their contract commencing on 1st January 2018.

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.	Commercial Services: Mark Ellis (Resources - Finance and Commercial Services)
		Legal: <i>Sarah Bennett</i>
		Equalities: <i>N/A</i>
	<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: <i>Charlotte Shepherd</i>	Job Title: <i>Housing Independence Officer</i>
	Date: <i>11th September 2017</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to allow the variation of Framework's contract; *Sheffield Street Outreach*, to include the provision of a Reconnections Service. This will include an allocation of £3k per annum commencing on 1st January 2018 until the end of the contract on 31st May 2022.

A waiver of Council standing orders ref NPS122-2017 has been granted to allow this contract variation for the lifetime of the contract

Responding to Rough Sleeping

Framework Housing Association have been awarded the contract to provide a street outreach service to people rough sleeping or at risk of sleeping rough in Sheffield. This commenced on the 1st June 2017. This service provides street outreach, working with people on the streets and in the community, to assist them to engage with health and well-being and accommodation services. It identifies those at risk of homelessness and coordinates a response to prevent them rough sleeping, and offers continued support for the most vulnerable and those at risk of returning to the streets.

The service works proactively to prevent people sleeping rough. The team works quickly and assertively, adopting a No Second Night Out approach to move people new to rough sleeping into accommodation and appropriate support services, to prevent them becoming part of the street community.

Part of this proactive approach, is having the ability to assist people to return to their homes and reunite them with their families and friends. The ability to provide immediate reconnections will enhance this service and support the Council's and City's response to rough sleeping and homelessness

Reconnections

Reconnection can be defined as *'the process by which people sleeping rough who have a connection to another area where they can access accommodation and/or social, family and support networks are supported to return to this area in a planned way' (1).*

The emphasis on Reconnections escalated after the rollout of the No Second Night Out initiative. It is recognised as being part of a strategic approach to rough sleeping in many cities in the UK. People are helped to return to their family, friends and network of support both across the UK and overseas.

Where appropriate, Framework will support people sleeping rough or at

risk of doing so, to reconnect to locations where they have existing networks. This includes destitute economic migrants with no recourse to public funding.

Current provision

The Cathedral Archer Project has provided a Reconnections service since May 2014, when it was funded by the Homeless Transition Fund. Since January 2016 the Council have provided a small grant of £3k per annum to facilitate this service.

Since January 2016 the Reconnections Service has assisted 33 people to return home. This includes 20 within the UK and 9 overseas. 4 people were also supported to visit their national embassies in order to arrange transport to their country of origin.

24 people were referred by the Rough Sleeping/Street Outreach Service. 21 reported to be sleeping rough at that time, with the remaining 9 being at risk of spending time on the streets.

Cathedral Archer Project

While it is recognised that the Cathedral Archer Project has been an excellent provider of the service since 2014, the reconnections offer for rough sleepers would fit better with the service that works directly with this client group to ensure rough sleeping is prevented wherever possible at the earliest opportunity. The majority of people referred through the reconnections Service or either rough sleeping or at risk of spending time on the streets.

By integrating the reconnections service into Framework's Street Outreach Service, people can be offered this solution as an immediate option, reducing the risk of them sleeping rough and becoming entrenched in rough sleeping lifestyle. The service is best placed to be able to provide the Reconnections Service as part of their solution based approach to homelessness. The Street Outreach Service offers extended hours of operation, with morning outreach starting as early as 4am. The service are also planning to extending their Freephone telephone response to offer a 24 hour telephone service, which again will offer a proactive response, enabling reconnections to be offered outside of normal office hours.

Framework services have a working knowledge of Treaty Rights Information and a strong partnership with UK Visas and Immigration. It also has relationships with over 50 agencies in Eastern Europe to ensure ongoing support on return. Framework already deliver a successful reconnections service in the East Midlands.

All rough sleepers or people at risk of sleeping on the streets with no established local connection will be referred to the Reconnections Service.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE

The provision of a Reconnections Service reduces the potential costs to the Council of providing temporary accommodation as part of the statutory homeless duty to people who maybe owed a duty under the Housing Act 1996.

The Reconnections Service is also a key tool in the prevention of homelessness, by helping people at risk of sleeping rough, to return to their home and network of support.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

The Cathedral Archer Project (CAP) has been consulted and is fully supportive of this proposal. Framework is has already established a good working relationship with CAP and is committed to continue to work with the Cathedral Archer Project and have pledged to continue provide a daily presence in the Day Centre, to support rough sleepers who visit the Archer Project.

The Housing Independence service facilitates ongoing consultation as part of the commissioning cycle. Specific consultation was carried out as part of the procurement of the Sheffield Street Outreach Service, including talking to people sleeping rough, as well as services and partners who work with this client group.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1.1 An EIA has been carried out as part of the procurement process (ref 966 when Framework was appointed). Framework has robust equality and diversity policies and practices which they will apply when providing the Reconnections Service.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 The funding is included in the Supported Housing Commissioning budget. This will include an allocation of £3k per annum commencing on 1st January 2018 until the end of the contract on 31st May 2022. This will equate to a total of £13,250– see table below;

Year 1 (Jan 18- Dec 18)	Year 2 (Jan 19- Dec 19)	Year 3 (Jan 20 - Dec 20)	Year 4 (Jan 21- Dec 21)	Year 5 (Jan 22 – May 2022)
£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£1,250

The Sheffield Street outreach contract is £196k per annum over a five year period. Value for money will be ensured through the contract management of the service. The service will specially be monitored around the use of the Reconnection Service to ensure that funds are being managed accordingly. The service will provide quarterly and annual reports detailing how the budget is being spent and outcomes achieved. Any underspend end of each year will be carried forward. Any underspend at the end of the contract will be returned to Sheffield City Council.

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 The decision to vary the contract is being made in line with provisions outlined at para. 3a below. On 17th February 2016 Cabinet approved the report *Delegated Decisions for Housing Related Support Commissioning strategy and Budget Plan 2016 to 2020*. It was resolved that:

1. That the Content of this report is noted and approval is given to the high level commissioning strategy.
2. That the Director of Commissioning be authorised to terminate contracts relevant to the delivery of the Housing Related Support Strategy and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contracts.
3. That in accordance with the high level commissioning strategy and this report, authority be delegated to the Director of Commissioning to:
 - a) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living and the Director of Commercial Services approve the procurement strategy for any service delivery during the period of the strategy;
 - 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
 - c) in consultation with Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent

Living, the Director of Legal and Governance and the Director of Commercial Services make awards of grants;

4. That the Director of Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living, the Director of Legal and Governance and the Director of Commercial Services is authorised to take such other steps as he deems appropriate to achieve the outcomes in this report.

5. The Director of Commissioning shall only procure and award contracts for the provision of supported accommodation where the use of Council Housing accommodation is integral to the support in consultation with the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods and where the appropriate approval for that use of the accommodation is in place.

- a) The Director of Commissioning shall only procure and award contracts for the provision of supported accommodation, where there will be implications for housing benefit subsidy loss, in consultation with the Director of Finance.
- b) The terms and conditions of the contract which will be used for this service was drafted by the Council's Legal Services.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 It was considered whether to continue this service with the current providers Cathedral Archer Project (CAP). However, following discussions with CAP, it was agreed it was more beneficial for the client, if this was managed by the Sheffield Street Outreach Service. The primary reasons being the proactive and reactive role they deliver in response to rough sleeping and the risk of people being on the streets. They are the first point of contact for rough sleepers. The success of reconnections is often due to rapid response, supporting people off the streets before they become entrenched in street culture and long term rough sleeping.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

(Explain why this is the preferred option and outline the intended outcomes.)

- 6.1
 - Reconnection has helped both people returning abroad as well as those returning to towns and cities in the UK
 - It enhances the offer of the Sheffield Street Outreach Service, by enabling them to provide practical assistance to help people return home

- It forms part of the Council's commitment to end rough sleeping
- It enables people who are rough sleeping or at risk of doing so, to access accommodation and support in a planned way
- It enables people who are destitute and have no access to funds to be able to return to where they have a local connection
- It reduces the potential costs to the Council of providing accommodation as part of the statutory homeless duty to people who maybe owed a duty under the Housing Act 1996.
- The implications of not providing this service are far reaching. Many people who sleep rough will suffer from multiple health conditions, such as are also in greater danger of violence, mental health problems and drug misuse they e than the general population. This is likely to have wider impact public services in terms of unplanned and crisis intervention for those forced to sleep on the streets.