



Executive Director/Director Non-Key Executive Decision Report

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Jackie Ainsworth

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Report to: Director – Commissioning, Inclusion and Learning

Date of Decision: 2 August 2018

Subject: Approval to vary Housing Independence Service's Rough Sleeper Service contract to include grant funding from the MHCLG, for the Rough Sleeper Initiative

Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? *(Insert title of Portfolio)*

- Chris Peace, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to?

- Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

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

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 303

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:-

Purpose of Report:

The Council has been successful in a bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant for funding of £363,309 for 2018/19; £25,000 of this is to increase the commissioned Rough Sleepers Outreach Service to fund additional outreach work in 2018/19.

On 4th July 2018 the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods approved the acceptance of this grant from the MHCLG for 2018-19, including the approval to make the £25,000 available to the Housing Independence Service to pay to the Outreach service provider.

This report seeks approval to vary the current contract for the Rough Sleepers Outreach Service to enable £25,000 of this grant to be passed onto 'Framework' the provider of the outreach service.

Recommendations:

The variation to the Rough Sleeper Outreach Service contract to increase the contract value by the £25,000, in line with this report.

Background Papers:

Non-key Executive Decision Report: Rough Sleeping Initiative agreed 4 July 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.	Finance: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i> Paul Jeffries
		Legal: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i> Henry Watmough-Cownie
		Equalities: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i>
2	Lead Officer Name: Ann Ellis	Job Title: Strategic Commissioning Manager
	Date: 31 July 2018	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 On 30th March, the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announced the creation of a new multi-disciplinary Rough Sleeping Initiative to work intensely with local areas to immediately tackle rough sleeping, and identify and address the longer term barriers to ending rough sleeping in England. The first stage in this work is the establishment of a targeted £30m fund to enable action ahead of next winter. This is the next step in the Government's plan to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminate it altogether by 2027, and precedes the publication of the Rough Sleeping Strategy this summer. MHCLG invited Sheffield City Council to bid for funding.

The Council submitted a bid setting out a number of interventions to enhance current provision, address gaps and target those who are considered to be long term and repeat rough sleepers in Sheffield. The Council recognises that there needs to be a different approach and personalised, tailored responses for people who are refusing the options currently available to them.

One of the proposals to use the grant funding is for the street outreach team, provided by Framework and commissioned by the Housing Independence Service, to provide additional, temporary outreach work. On the 8th June the Council were informed that the bid had been successful and all proposals had been agreed.

On 4 July 2018, a report was approved by the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods for the Council to accept the grant of £363,309 from the MHCLG for 2018-19.

The report detailed how it was proposed to use the funding, which will enable Framework to resource their street outreach response and link in with the proposed Rough Sleeper Team to target the longer term rough sleepers, through bespoke offers of support and accommodation. The report makes specific reference to the plan to transfer funding:

'The £25,000 will be transferred to the Housing Independence Service who will arrange for this to be paid to the commissioned street outreach service provider 'Framework.'

Therefore, this report is to seek approval to vary the contract price of the Rough Sleepers Outreach Service during 2018-19, to include £25,000 of the Rough Sleepers Initiative grant funding from MHCLG. Performance data will be provided by the Development Officer from the South Yorkshire Rough Sleeper Development Programme.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 The decision to vary Framework's Rough Sleeper contract to include the £25,000 funding will enable the most efficient and effective solution for payment of the grant.

By varying the contract to enable the facilitation of the funding and employment of the worker, it will contribute to the Corporate Plan priorities of a Better Health

and Wellbeing, Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities, and Tackling Inequalities. The Corporate Plan also recognises that to achieve these outcomes we will need to do things differently and this includes how we work collaboratively with our partners and individuals facing the greatest challenges. This Rough Sleeper Initiative aligns with the following Corporate Plan objectives:

- Better Health and Well Being –helping people to be healthy and well, by promoting and enabling good health whilst preventing and tackling ill health, particularly for those who have a higher risk of experiencing poor health, illness or dying early.
- Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities – providing safe places to live for vulnerable people that contribute to tenancy and community sustainment.
- Tackling inequalities - making it easier for individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their potential. Investing in the most deprived communities; supporting individuals and communities to help themselves and each other.

The proposal to employ an additional, temporary worker within the bid, reflects the key actions detailed in the Council's Homeless Prevention Strategy 2017 – 2022, specifically in the development of more targeted prevention activity to reduce the number of new rough sleepers, while improving the provision of advice, needs assessment and access to emergency housing in the evenings and at weekends. It also makes a commitment to helping those entrenched patterns in rough sleeping with better collaborative working and support tailored to their individual needs.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 There has been no specific consultation in relation to varying the Rough Sleeper Service contract as the funding was part of a wider bid. Framework are the providers of the Outreach Service.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1.1 Facilitating the means by which the funding can be made available to the provider, will enable the Council and its partners to help to target those most vulnerable, who are rough sleeping or at risk of street homelessness. Positive impacts are numerous including those on health, poverty and financial inclusion and involvement of and with the voluntary and faith sector.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

A spending plan, which included the funding of £25,000 for the outreach work, was attached to the report seeking approval for the acceptance of the MHCLG grant and which has been approved by the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods. The report makes specific reference to the plan to transfer funding:

'The £25k will be transferred to the Housing Independence Service who will arrange for this to be paid to the commissioned street outreach service, Framework.'

£25,000 will be transferred with immediate effect into the Housing Independence Service budget and this will be paid to Framework in one payment.

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 On 17th February 2016 Cabinet approved a report '*Delegated Decisions for Housing Related Support Commissioning Strategy and Budget Plan 2016 to 2020*', which delegated decision making for the commissioning of Supported Housing to the Director of Commissioning. It was resolved that:

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

(ii) 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.

The Director of Commissioning is asked to approve a variation to the Rough Sleeper Outreach Service contract, which would enable £25,000 funding to be transferred; this will assist the Council in meeting the following:

- a) a duty under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 to:
 - ensure that advice and information about homelessness and the prevention of homelessness is available to persons in its district; and
 - give assistance by way of grant, or loan, to any persons providing such advice and information; and to voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness or matters relating to homelessness.
- b) The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, which imposes additional duties on local authorities to provide new homelessness services to a wider homeless group than those who are protected under existing legislation, including providing assistance and support to eligible people to help them to secure accommodation.

The grant, from which the £25,000 will be expended, is paid to the Council under the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 i.e. to pay a grant to a local authority towards expenditure incurred by it, in this case for the purpose of Homelessness Prevention Rough Sleeping. The grant may be subject to conditions determined by MHCLG, which will need to be considered and any specific legal advice required on them will be obtained by the Rough Sleeper Development Programme Team. The Housing Independence Service will be notified of any advice affecting, or potentially affecting, the funding of the temporary post.

The Rough Sleeper Development Programme Team will be responsible for monitoring the expenditure, outputs and outcomes of the programme including those relating to the additional, temporary outreach worker.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 No other alternative options were considered as Housing Independence Service already has a contract in place with Framework Housing Association to deliver an outreach service to rough sleepers. This post will enable the extension of that service and therefore, it would be appropriate to vary the contract to extend the funding for the service to meet the requirements of the successful bid.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The grant from the MHCLG will provide a temporary outreach worker for one year to assist in testing approaches to tackling rough sleeping in Sheffield. It will enable the Council and its partners to target the most vulnerable people sleeping rough, or at risk of street homelessness.
Approval to vary Housing Independence Service's Rough Sleeper Service contract will enable the grant payment for the worker to be made to Framework on a monthly basis to enable the post holder to assist with the Council's duties.

Signed: 
Director – Commissioning, Inclusion and Learning

Date: 