



**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: 13 August 2019

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)*

- George Lindars-Hammond, 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:

Last year the Council was successful in a bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG's) Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant for funding for 2018/19; £25,000 of this was to increase the commissioned Rough Sleepers Outreach Service to fund additional outreach work in 2018/19.

This year the Council has again been successful in obtaining a Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant from MHCLG..

On 12th July 2019 the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods approved the acceptance of this grant from the MHCLG for 2019-20, including the approval to make a further £25,000 available to the Housing Independence Service to pay to the Outreach service provider, Framework Housing Association, to continue to provide an additional, temporary outreach worker.

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

Recommendations:

Agree to the variation to the Housing Independence Service's 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 12th July 2019

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: Paul Jeffries
	Legal: Henry Watmough-Cownie
	Equalities: <i>(Insert name of officer consulted)</i>
2	Lead Officer Name: Ann Ellis
	Job Title: Strategic Commissioning Manager
Date: 30 th July 2019	

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 On 30th March 2018, 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 was the establishment of a targeted £30m fund to enable action ahead of last winter. The Government's plan is to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminate it altogether by 2027.

MHCLG invited Sheffield City Council to bid for funding for 2018/19. This bid was successful and included a proposal for the street outreach team, provided by Framework Housing Association (Framework) and commissioned by the Housing Independence Service, to provide an additional, temporary outreach worker. A bid for further funding for 2019 – 20 has also been successful; and on 12th July 2019, a report was approved by the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods for the Council to accept the grant of £412,926 from the MHCLG for 2019-20.

The report details how it was proposed to use the funding, £25,000 of which will enable Framework to continue to resource their street outreach response and link in with the Rough Sleeper Team to target the longer term rough sleepers, through bespoke offers of support and accommodation. The previous report to accept the funding in 2018-19 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.'

The report on 12th July 2019, again make specific reference to this:

'The 2018/19 grant included funding for an additional outreach worker for the commissioned street outreach team (Framework). This has enabled them 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. This element of the grant was transferred to the Housing Independence Service, and the contract price of the Rough Sleepers Outreach Service was varied accordingly for 2018/19. The 2019/20 grant includes the same element and it is proposed that it is dealt with in the same way.'

1.2 Proposal

- 1.2.1 This report seeks approval to vary the contract price of the Rough Sleepers Outreach Service during 2019-20, to include £25,000 of the Rough Sleepers Initiative grant funding from MHCLG. Performance data

will be provided by the Housing Options and Advice Service Manager.

T2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

2.1 The decision to vary Framework's Rough Sleeper Outreach service 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 continued 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 continue the employment of 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 who have 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 to continue work started in 2018. Framework is the commissioned 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 plan, which incorporated the funding of £25,000 for the outreach work, was included in the financial implications section of the report on 12 July 2019 seeking approval for the acceptance of the MHCLG grant and which has been approved by the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods. The report made specific reference to the plan to transfer funding:

‘The 2018/19 grant included funding for an additional outreach worker for the commissioned street outreach team (Framework). This has enabled them 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. This element of the grant was transferred to the Housing Independence Service, and the contract price of the Rough Sleepers Outreach Service was varied accordingly for 2018/19. The 2019/20 grant includes the same element and it is proposed that it is dealt with in the same way.’

The £25,000 funding will be transferred with immediate effect into the Housing Independence Service budget and this will be paid to Framework in monthly instalments.

There is no net impact on the 2019/20 Housing Related Support budget.

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 Housing Options and Advice Service Manager. The Housing Independence Service will be notified of any advice affecting, or potentially affecting, the funding of the temporary post.

The Housing Options and Advice Service Manager will be responsible for monitoring the expenditure, outputs and outcomes of the programme including those relating to the additional, temporary outreach worker.

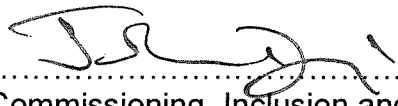
5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 No other alternative options were considered as the Housing Independence Service already has a contract in place with Framework to deliver an outreach service to rough sleepers. The continued funding of 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 enable the continued provision of 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: 