

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION RECORD

The following decision was taken on 29th July 2021 by the Executive Member for Health and Social Care.

Date notified to all members: 30th July 2021

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on 5th August 2021

Unless called-in, the decision can be implemented from 6th August 2021

1. **TITLE**

Approval to Extend a Current Contract for 6 Months to Sheffield Women's Aid to Continue to Provide Refuge Accommodation

2. **DECISION TAKEN**

That the Council:

1. Extend, by way of variation of the current contract with Sheffield Women's Aid for a further 12 months, to 30th September 2022.
2. Extend by way of variation the Safe Zones contract for an additional 6 months to 30th September 2022.

3. **Reasons For Decision**

The current contract ends on 2nd October 2021 and 31st March 2022 respectively. However, the new Domestic Abuse Legislation and templates for a needs assessment and only commenced in April 2021. The needs assessment, consultation processes and development of strategic priorities will take a number of months to complete and report to Government by 31st October 2021. The procurement process itself will take 5 to 6 months to complete within requirements under the Public Contracting Regulations and Council Standing Orders.

Refuge and Safe zones provision are essential services protecting vulnerable victims of domestic abuse who are primarily women and children. Failure to extend the service by a new short-term contract award would leave victims without safe accommodation and would put additional pressure on Social Care and Homeless services in the city.

4. **Alternatives Considered And Rejected**

None – given the timing of the Domestic Abuse Act and work required to ensure we

meet the new legal duties it would not be possible to recommend an appropriate medium to long term solution and carry out the tender exercise within the time available.

5. **Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

6. **Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Executive Director, People Services

7. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee If Decision Called In**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee