



To: Executive Councillor for Housing: Councillor Kevin Price
Report by: Alan Carter
Relevant scrutiny committee: Housing 24/9/2015
Scrutiny Committee
Wards affected: All

STREET AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH CONTRACT RE-TENDERING

Key Decision

1. Executive summary

The City Council funds a Street and Mental Health Outreach Service working primarily with rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping. The contract is commissioned jointly with the County Council and is now due to be re-tendered, having been extended for the maximum permitted period. The new contract would commence on 1st April 2016. The service is aimed at adults engaged in a street based lifestyle (i.e. those who sleep rough, drink, beg or indulge in a number of other potentially anti-social behaviours) but also provides a mental health outreach service. The service is a vital first point of contact with people arriving onto the streets of Cambridge with no accommodation and has played a significant part in minimising rough sleeping in Cambridge City since 2003.

The current contract value is £ £279, 493.51 per annum. The Council's contribution is £175,000 with the County providing the remainder. This funding is detailed in the Homelessness Prevention Grants report, which is also being presented to this committee.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

1. To commit funds of up to £178,500 (plus annual inflationary uplifts, if applicable) per annum from 1st April 2016 and to award a contract for four years with an option to extend for a further two years.

2. To continue to jointly commission the service with the County Council for the contract period outlined above

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council has funded Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) to deliver street outreach services in Cambridge since April 1st 2003. CRI has successfully retained the service through each subsequent re-tendering process. Since the inception of the first contract, the Council has retained a target of less than 10 rough sleepers on average to be found in the City on 'hot spot' counts throughout the year. Performance in this area remains generally good and the figures below demonstrate that the target has only been missed once during the course of this contract:

Year	Average numbers of rough sleepers found on hot spot counts across the year
2010-11	6
2011-12	9.5
2012-13	16
2013-14	9.75
2014-15	7

- 3.2 The target of less than an average of 10 rough sleepers to be found in the City was based on an original government target to cut the number of rough sleepers by two thirds. Before this service was introduced, in 2003, Cambridge had set a benchmark of 30 based on previous rough sleeping counts.
- 3.3 The service is expected to work closely with the assessment centre, managed by Jimmy's Cambridge, and ensure that rough sleepers are appropriately prioritised for accommodation there.
- 3.4 The mental health outreach function is critical to preventing rough sleeping in the city. This service principally operates inside Fulbourn hospital and works closely with discharge planning teams to ensure that appropriate accommodation solutions and support plans are in place for people, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, prior to discharge.
- 3.5 The service is also expected to work closely with the Police to help tackle street drinking, begging and other street-based anti-social behaviour in the City.

4. Implications

(a) **Financial Implications**

The total contract value, subject to County Council budget approval, is expected to be £1,697,961. The City Council contribution amounts to £1,071,000 plus annual inflationary uplifts over the life of the potential 6 year contract. The contract has a six month break clause, which provides for a scenario whereby the Council has insufficient funds to honour the full contract.

(b) **Staffing Implications** (if not covered in Consultations Section)

None

(c) **Equality and Poverty Implications**

This service is designed to offset the effects of poverty and disadvantage suffered by typical users of the service. There are no significant changes to the proposed contract and, therefore, an Equality Impact Assessment is not required

(d) **Environmental Implications**

Nil

(e) **Procurement**

The contract value exceeds the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 thresholds and it is, therefore, a requirement to advertise the contract in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). There may be Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) implications between the existing and any new contract, should the current service providers be unsuccessful in the tendering process

(f) **Consultation and communication**

The tender will be advertised in line with Public Contracts Regulations 2015. There is no proposal to change the Council's approach to tackling rough sleeping and, therefore, the decision to either re-tender or discontinue this service has not been the subject of a consultation process.

(g) **Community Safety**

The contract for Street and Mental Health Outreach Services is specifically shaped to improve community safety by supporting efforts to tackle street-based anti-social behaviour

5. Background papers

Street and mental health outreach service contract specification

6. Appendices

None

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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