
A separate report is submitted in the private part of the agenda in respect of this item, as it contains details of financial information required to be kept private in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The grounds for privacy are that it refers to the identity, financial and business affairs of an organisation and the amount of expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Council under a particular contract for the supply of goods or services.

Cabinet
Council

20th November 2012
4th December 2012

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood Action, Housing, Leisure and Culture) – Councillor Ruane
Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources) – Councillor Duggins
Cabinet Member (Community Safety & Equalities) – Councillor Townshend

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Community Services and the Director of Finance and Legal Services

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title: Short Term Services for Homeless and Ex-Offender Accommodation and Floating Support

Is this a key decision?

Yes – the proposals may affect residents in all Wards of the City.

Executive Summary:

The Council currently commissions twenty two separate services across Public Safety and Housing within the Community Services Directorate. These services provide supported accommodation and floating support for the homeless and ex-offenders. The services are commissioned in order to fulfil statutory obligations or are a requirement of City Wide partnership strategies to prevent and reduce instances of homelessness and re-offending.

The purpose of this report is to seek authorisation to merge the Homeless and Ex-Offender contracts, scope potential shared contractual opportunities and procure the service via open and competitive tendering.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to recommend that Council:

- (1) Combine contracted short term homeless and ex-offender services into one procurement process which enables better outcomes for the service users and improvements in operational allocation and value for money.
- (2) Delegate to Cabinet member in consultation with Director of Community Services approval to consider and discharge the duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 following completion of the consultation and approve the contract specification for the procurement

Council are requested to give approval to:

- (1) Combining contracted short term homeless and ex-offender services into one procurement process which enables better outcomes for the service users and improvements in operational allocation and value for money.
- (2) Delegate to Cabinet member in consultation with Director of Community Services approval to consider and discharge the duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 following completion of the consultation and approve the contract specification for the procurement

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

Yes - People Panel & Procurement Board

It has been requested by both People Panel and Procurement Board that existing contracts are consolidated and considered as part of a future model of a wider, more flexible, single contracted set of services that delivers outcomes and efficiencies.

Governance ultimately sits with procurement board via the respective Assistant Directors

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 4th December 2012

Report title: Short Term Services for Homeless and Ex-Offender Accommodation and Floating Support (Homeless and Ex Offenders)

1. Context (or background)

1.1 Homelessness & Re-Offending

1.1.1 Changes to Housing Benefit and the predicted impact of the Welfare Reform proposals and introduction of Universal Credit, in addition to other economic factors, such as rising unemployment, will increase the pressure on the Council's Housing Service and is likely to lead to an increase in the number of people who are homeless.

1.1.2 Tackling homelessness is a priority of the Coventry Partnership and the Council due to the cost and the impact this has on residents in the city.

1.1.3 Coventry currently has 15 homeless Supported Accommodation, Floating Support and Day Centre services provided by a range of organisations, including:

- Coventry Cyrenians
- Salvation Army
- Valley House
- Whitefriars Housing Group
- Stonham Housing (Home Group)
- Coventry Jesus Centre
- Central and Cecil.

1.1.4 In addition, there are currently 5 services for ex-offenders and 2 Single Point of Access Officers provided by West Midland and Staffordshire Probation; and Supported Accommodation and Floating Support provided by organisations including:

- Fry Housing
- Stonham Housing (Home Group)
- Langley House Trust
- Nacro NCE

1.2 Accommodation & Support Services

1.2.1 Accommodation based services provide citizens with residential hostel type living provision with dedicated support workers onsite during business hours. Typical support includes: developing domestic/life skills, developing social skills/behaviour management, emotional support, counselling and advice, help finding other suitable accommodation, etc.

1.2.2 Floating support services are provided for citizens when moving on from accommodation based service and into independent living. This includes support in managing finances and claiming benefit, help in setting up and maintaining their home or tenancy, emotional support, counselling and advice etc. Floating support provides reassurance to citizens that have recently moved into independent living so that they do not feel that they are completely on their own after leaving supported accommodation.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 The Council could continue to commission these services separately however, this leads to fragmented services for the individuals and inefficiencies in terms of contract

management and service provision. This proposal will provide a range of services which will respond to the complex needs of the individuals concerned.

- 2.2 Following consultation with providers, service users and examining existing needs analysis data some key high level principles have been established for the re-commissioning of the new Homelessness contract. There should be a single awarded contract rather than the 15 disparate, disjointed contracts that currently exist. Greater efficiencies and customer care will be created through a single assessment process, which would initially capture citizens details once and should be added to as required. The single assessment process should ideally be administered through a single agreed, shared IT system. The re-commissioned homelessness services should more greatly complement the statutory duties of the Authority around homelessness.
- 2.3 Specific contract model options will be submitted to cabinet following approval to proceed and once the consultation process has concluded.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 A programme of consultation has been developed and is currently in progress with current and potential clients, stakeholders, current providers and potential providers. This will be conducted in two stages with focus groups and online surveys. Details of the consultation will be used for the equalities and needs analysis, and the design of the proposed models which will be presented to Cabinet for approval prior to tendering.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 Subject to approval the new service will commence on 1st September 2013.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

5.1 Financial Implications

- 5.1.1 Information on financial implications is included in the private report.

5.2 Legal implications

- 5.2.1 The procurement will be an open competitive process as required under the Council's Rules for Contract and the Public Contract Regulations 2006.
- 5.2.2 The current providers have agreed to extend their contracts on existing terms and conditions pending the commencement of the procurement process and award of contract.

6. Other implications

- 6.1 **How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Plan)?**

This service supports the delivery of the vision and values set out within the Council Plan 2011-14, by ensuring that people are prevented from becoming homeless and provided with the appropriate level of support should this happen.

Support vulnerable people and the prevention of re-offending is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership as identified by the Strategic Assessment 2011/12.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

A core project team comprising of the Head of Community Safety, Head of Housing, Lead Accountant for Public Safety & Housing and Community Services Commissioners has been established. The Team meets bi-weekly where project risk management and mitigation is a standing item. Governance ultimately sits with procurement board via the respective Assistant Directors.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

The revised commissioning process will enable the Council to commission services that are value for money and meet the needs of Homeless and Ex Offender clients and their families.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has commenced, an update to the EIA will be conducted as the project progresses and at the service design stage to ensure that any equalities issues have been addressed in the redesign of the service. In addition, the service will be required to collect and monitor equalities data and to respond to any equality issues that are identified on an ongoing basis during the provision of this service.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

There is potential for some organisations to be without a direct contract with the city council as part of this process.

Report author(s):

Deanna Phillips
Interim Commissioning Manager – Adult Social Care Commissioning

Jason Bejai,
Commissioning Officer / Project Manager – Adult Social Care Commissioning

Sonia Watson,
Business Manager/Project Manager - Public Safety and Housing

Directorate:
Community Services Directorate

Tel and email contact:
0247 683 1890 sonia.watson@coventry.gov.uk
Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Mandie Watson	Head of Community Safety	Community Services	9 th October 2012	23 rd October 2012
Sara Roach	Assistant Director Public Safety and Housing	Community Services	9 th October 2012	25 th October 2012
Ayaz Maqsood	Head of Housing	Community Services	9 th October 2012	25 th October 2012
Finance: Diane Jones	Lead Accountant - Business Partnering	Finance and Legal Services	9 th October 2012	23 rd October 2012
Finance: Ewan Dewar	Finance Manager	Finance & Legal Services	9 th October 2012	23 rd October 2012
Legal: Clarissa Evans	Commercial Team Manager	Finance & Legal Services	9 th October 2012	23 rd October 2012
Jon Reading	Interim Head of Strategic Commissioning	Community Services	9 th October 2012	23 rd October 2012
Other members				
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Ewan Dewar	Finance Manager	Finance & Legal Services	23 rd October 2012	23 rd October 2012
Brian Walsh	Director of Community Services	Community Services	23 rd October 2012	25 th October 2012
Legal: Clarissa Evans	Commercial Team Manager	Finance & Legal Services	23 rd October 2012	23 rd October 2012
Members: Cllr Ruane	Cabinet Member (Neighbourhood Action, Housing, Leisure and Culture)		24 th October 2012	24 th October 2012
Members: Cllr Duggins	Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources)		24 th October 2012	24 th October 2012
Members: Cllr Townshend	Cabinet member Community Safety & Equalities		24 th October 2012	24 th October 2012

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