

**Report of Head of Commissioning, Adults and Health
Report to Director of Resources and Housing**

Date: 28th February 2018

**Subject: Request to approve the extension of the contract with St Anne's
Community Services for Raise Resource Centre in accordance with Contracts
Procedure Rule 21.1**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Leeds City Council currently contract with St Anne's Community Services to provide the Raise Resource Centre, which offers a drop in service for vulnerable people who are rough sleeping or unsuitably housed. The delivery arrangements and future role of the service is being reviewed in the context of the new housing related support model and pathways that were introduced in 2017.
2. This report is seeking approval to utilise the available 12 month extension to maintain service continuity while this work takes place.

Recommendations

The Director of Resources and Housing is recommended to approve the available 12-month extension of the Raise contract to the value of £210,000 in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rule 21.1.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend the contract with St Anne's Community Services for the Raise Resource Centre for 12 months, in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rule 21.1.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Housing Related Support services are commissioned by the Council to provide support to help vulnerable people to manage independent living through a range of accommodation based and visiting support services.
- 2.2 The main purpose of these services is to help vulnerable people live independently and provide interventions to meet a wide range of support needs such as immediate homelessness, mental health problems, substance misuse and help for those experiencing domestic violence. These services are delivered by a range of third sector organisations across the city.
- 2.3 A strategic review of commissioned services has taken place and a new single visiting support service (Engage Leeds) and an accommodation based service (Beacon) were procured in 2017.
- 2.4 A number of specialist services were retained alongside these new contracts. One of these services is Raise Resource Centre, which provides a drop in service for vulnerable people who are rough sleeping or unsuitably housed. A short term contract was put in place so that this facility was available as the new model was embedded and delivery arrangements and future role of the service was reviewed. The main contract period expires on 31st March 2018

3. Main issues

- 3.1 Monitoring and assessment of demand has been taking place to determine future plans for the service. This includes looking at how this service supports current work with people who are rough sleeping and begging. Given the close links with other commissioned services, notably the Street Outreach Team, it has been recognised that this service should be included in the scope of a wider review into provision for street based activity and those requiring intensive support. The main contract period will therefore expire before this can be completed.
- 3.2 This is currently a key service for homeless people and therefore it is recommended that the available extension is used to maintain service provision for some of the most vulnerable people in the city whilst undertaking this wider review process.
- 3.3 Should the review determine that a tendering exercise is required, it is the intention to seek approval to waive Contracts Procedure Rules in order to put an interim contract in place to maintain service provision while it is undertaken since it will not be possible within the timescale of this extension.
- 3.4 The value of the extension is £210,000 for 12 months.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The recommendation in this report reflects the outcome of the housing related support review and has been discussed at the Housing Related Support Project Team and Project Board. The review included extensive consultation with partners and stakeholders.
- 4.1.2 Discussion has taken place with St Anne's regarding the proposal and the role of the service in supporting people as part of the housing related support model. A street based workshop was held in April 2017 and a broad range of stakeholders attended including St Anne's. The workshop highlighted the importance of this facility as a base for discussion with individuals who are rough sleeping or begging in the city centre.
- 4.1.3 The Executive Member for Communities has been consulted regarding the proposals outlined in this report.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 Raise is a known and trusted facility. Workers at Raise provide support and encourage service users to engage with the Forward Leeds drug and alcohol treatment service, housing related support services and others as relevant.
- 4.2.2 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening tool has been completed and is included as background information to this report. This indicates that a full assessment is not required as the proposal will not impact negatively on service users, staff or other stakeholders.

4.3 Council policies and best council plan

- 4.3.1 Raise will contribute to the delivery of the Leeds Homelessness Strategy (2016-2018). This services will contribute to minimising the need for temporary accommodation and delivering a modernised programme of housing related support. The work also contributes to the Housing Strategy particularly the outcomes related to reducing homelessness and rough sleeping.
- 4.3.2 The work delivered at Raise supports the Council's ambition for Leeds to be a compassionate and caring city by helping to reduce rough sleeping and begging and the negative impacts of this across the City. It also supports the 'Vision for Leeds 2011-2030' and the delivery of wider outcomes relating to community safety, health and well-being, social inclusion and employment and training.
- 4.3.3 The support provided by Raise is in line with the Best Council plan's aim of 'tackling poverty and reducing inequalities'.
- 4.3.4 Raise will also make a contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2016-2021) in helping vulnerable people to live full, active and independent lives and to be involved in decisions made about them.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 Details of the costs for the Raise centre have been submitted to the Commissioning team and have been assessed as offering value for money based in comparison to other commissioned Housing Related Support contracts. Costs will be monitored through performance monitoring information (both qualitative and quantitative information)
- 4.4.2 The value of the extension is £210,000 and there is existing funding within the Housing Related Support budget for this.

4.4.3 Performance monitoring processes are in place within the Adults and Health Commissioning Team to ensure value for money and quality of delivery for the duration of the contract.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 This is a Significant Operational Decision and is not subject to Call In.

4.5.2 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

4.5.3 Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the extension of this contract the contents of this report should be noted. In making their final decision, the Director of Resources and Housing should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for the Council.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 Aside from the risk of disruption to services supporting vulnerable people if this course of action is not approved, there are no specific risks with respect to this report as the contract has the available extension provision.

4.6.2 Risk management is built into the contract and St Anne's has experience and skills to manage risks of working with this vulnerable client group including managing lone working and aggressive and volatile behaviour.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The contract period for the St Anne's Community Services to provide the Raise Resource Centre, expires on 31st March 2018. However the contract includes an option to extend the provision of the service for a further 12 month period in agreement with the provider.

5.2 A review of this provision within the context of the new housing related support model and in particular the services that may be required to support people who are homeless and / or rough sleeping is underway. The purpose of the review is to determine future commissioning needs and includes consultation with a range of stakeholders including members, council directorates, other partners, providers and service users.

5.3 This is currently a key service to deliver intensive, person-centred and outcome focused support to vulnerable clients who are in housing crisis and require a period of stability and therefore it is recommended that the available extension is used to maintain service provision for some of the most vulnerable people in the city that will continue to operate in conjunction with the service review.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Director of Resources and Housing is recommended to approve the available 12-month extension of the Raise contract to the value of £210,000 in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rule 21.1

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.