

Report of Adults and Health Commissioning

Report to Director of Resources and Housing

Date: 10th October 2019

Subject: Approval to utilise the six months extension available for Housing Related Support Services for Young People from 1st January 2020 as included in key decision report D47650.

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, 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?	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 commission a programme of services that deliver a combination of visiting and accommodation based Housing Related Support (HRS) to vulnerable young people in Leeds. The primary aim of these services is to enable young people to achieve and maintain independent living. The programme is managed by the commissioning team in Adults and Health on behalf of Resources and Housing.
2. A detailed and joint review of Housing Related Support Services for Young People is now completed and procurement underway to appoint the new service to provide support and accommodation for young people at risk, homelessness, teenage parents, young offenders, care leavers and unaccompanied asylum seeker children. The timetable for completion of the review and implementation of the new service is July 2020.
3. The Director of Resources and Housing approved a Key Decision on the 20th June 2018 to approve the waiver of Contracts Procedure Rules 9.1 and 9.2 to establish new contracts with those services detailed in Appendix 1.

4. Recommendations

1. The Director of Resources and Housing is recommended to approve the utilisation of the available six month extension to the end of June 2020 period for the services as detailed in Appendix 1. The maximum value of the extension is £1,244,563.50.

1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to utilise the agreed six month extension period from 1st January 2020 for contracts which deliver Housing Related Support for young people. This will enable continuity of services whilst the procurement process is finalised and the new contract commences on 1st July 2020.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 Housing Related Support services commissioned by Adults and Health provide support to help vulnerable people manage independent living through a range of services, delivered in supported accommodation by support staff or by support being delivered by support workers visiting people in their own home.
- 2.2 A strategic review of the majority of adult housing related support services was completed in 2017. This resulted in the implementation of a new single visiting support service delivered by Engage Leeds and intensive and dispersed accommodation service provided by Beacon.
- 2.3 One of the key recommendations highlighted by the review of the adult services was that services commissioned for young people should be reviewed jointly with Children's Services but separate from the adult provision in a phased approach to match available resources and avoid disruption to clients.
- 2.4 A report presented to the Council's Executive Board in 2017 set out the intention to review services which support young people and recommended that these services continue until June 2018 to ensure stability for vulnerable young people until the new service is implemented.
- 2.5 Recommendations in this report for new contracts were made based on estimates of the remaining review and procurement work to be completed. It is now necessary to extend these contracts whilst the procurement arising from the review is completed and new services are put in place.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The Adults and Health Commissioning Team and Children's Commissioning Team have completed joint review work of current services. Key findings from the review has informed the new service model and specification to procure a single combined service which will support vulnerable young people, care leavers and Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers.
- 3.2 Following an extensive service review, considerable consultation and engagement with the market, it was concluded that a single and integrated service model providing accommodation and support will achieve the best outcomes for vulnerable young

people, care leavers and UASC and contribute to key Council priorities. This involves merging current budgets from Resources and Housing and Children and Families Directorates.

- 3.3 The Director of Resources and Housing and Director of Children and Families has granted authority to procure the new service to provide accommodation and support for vulnerable young people, care leavers and unaccompanied asylum seeking children' using the open procedure with negotiation.
- 3.4 The procurement tender exercise is ongoing, with a closing date of September 25th 2019. The timetable for completion of the review and implementation of the new service is July 2020.
- 3.5 Extending the current contracts until the new contract start date will enable continuity of provision and ensure stability for young people who need support to achieve and sustain independent living. Any potential changes to the current services will be fully considered and managed in consultation with existing providers, service users and wider stakeholders as part of the on-going review and re-commissioning process.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Extensive consultation has been undertaken with appropriate stakeholders including providers, service users, Children's Services and elected members, as part of the review to inform the longer term re-commissioning of services for young people.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 An equality impact assessment screening tool (EIA) has been completed in relation to the recommendation to put in place new contracting arrangements with services in scope of the review, and is attached as a background document for information. The EIA screening tool indicates that a full EIA does not need to be completed as the recommendation to put in place new contracts does not necessitate any changes which would impact negatively on service users, staff and stakeholders.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The strategic review of housing related support services for young people has presented an opportunity to re-shape the provision of services available for vulnerable young people and deliver the priorities set out in the Best Council Plan, Leeds Housing Strategy, the Children's and Young Peoples Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 4.3.2 The HRS programme directly contributes to the delivery of the Best Council Plan 2019-21, specifically to improve the quality of life for our residents by tackling poverty and reducing inequalities through the delivery of the 'Better Lives' objectives.
- 4.3.3 Housing Related Support services for Young People contribute to all of the City Priority Plans, but particularly the Children and Young People Plan 2018-23 which

focuses on the needs of young people including care leavers, with the most significant and complex barriers to progression. The primary focus of the services is housing needs, but also provides support around the other issues highlighted in the plan such as finance and mental health.

- 4.3.4 The Young Persons services within the HRS programme also contribute to the joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021 this is achieved through supporting vulnerable people to be healthy and have strong social connections, live safely in their own homes, minimise debt, achieve their potential through education and lifelong learning and move into employment.
- 4.3.5 The Leeds Homelessness Strategy 2018-21 vision is to create opportunities and choice to enable people to stay in their own homes or to find alternative quality housing solutions. The overarching aim of the review is to commission a service to deliver a complete package of accommodation and support to the most vulnerable young people and to remove barriers to living successfully and independently by working closely with Children's Services.
- 4.3.6 The Service shall in delivering the Service meet all Legislation, Guidance and Good Industry Practice in environmental management and meet the objectives of the Council's sustainability policies, in particular, Climate Emergency.
- 4.3.7 The Service will promote and encourage the use of public transport and car sharing amongst its workforce, volunteers and service users.
- 4.3.8 Whenever possible, the Service must make use of recycled and sustainable resources to promote and deliver the requirements of the Service.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 There is provision within the Resources and Housing budget for these contracts for their continuity to 30th June 2020.
- 4.4.2 Maintaining provision with existing providers is considered value for money in that it ensures continuity of provision for Leeds young people requiring housing related support to live independently.
- 4.4.4 The total value of the new contracts is based on the current contract prices as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.4.5 The overall performance for all services detailed in Appendix 1 is good with positive outcomes being achieved for young people in line with the specification. The support delivered by these services ensures that not only is stable independent living achieved but also young people have the skills and options available to achieve full independence through support around health, parenting, education, training, employment, benefits and maximising income.

4.4.6 All services are contract managed by the Commissioning team in Adults and Health Directorate. Robust contract management processes allow for the on-going monitoring of performance.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This is a Significant Operation Decision as it is a decision arising from a previous key decision report, dated 20th June 2018, reference number D47650.

4.5.2 Advice has been sought from the Procurement and Commercial Service about the process required for the review and new contracting arrangements for services.

4.5.3 The Director of Resources and Housing has to consider the nature of services being delivered, the requirement to physically deliver the services in Leeds and relatively low value of the contracts being offered, and is satisfied that it would not be of interest to providers in other EU member states.

4.5.6 Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the extension of the contracts, in making their final decision, the Director of Resources and Housing should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for money for the Council.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 Extending the contracts from 1st January 2020 will enable continuity of provision whilst the review is completed. Contracts will continue to be performance managed by officers in the Adults and Health Commissioning team during the review period and any safeguarding, risk or performance issues will be addressed.

4.6.2 Without these contracts and arrangements, services would fall out of contract causing significant risk to the council and its providers. Should the services not continue to be delivered beyond the expiry of the current contract, this would result in vulnerable young people being without support, including those to whom a statutory housing duty may be owed.

5 Conclusions

5.1 A review of service provision for young people within the housing related support programme is currently underway. The purpose of the review is to determine future commissioning needs relating to housing related support services. The review will include consultation with a range of stakeholders including Members, Council directorates, other partners, providers and service users.

5.2 In order to maintain service continuity and complete the review within the timescales and award the new contract, the proposal is to utilise the extension available as part of the current contracts for these services to run to the 30th June 2020.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Director of Resources and Housing is recommended to approve the utilisation of the available six month extension to the end of June 2020 period for the services as detailed in Appendix 1. The maximum value of the extension is £1,244,563.50.

7 Background Documents¹

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.