

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/2013 REPORT NO. 125

MEETING AND DATE:

Cabinet 5th December 2012

REPORT OF:

Director of Health, Housing &
Adult Social Care (HHASC)

Key Decision No: KD 3603

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 12

Subject: Proposal for the renewal of Housing Related Support Contracts.

Wards: All

Cabinet Members consulted: Councillor McGowan and Councillor Oykener

Contact officer and telephone number: Pauline Kettless – Procurement and Contracting Manager

020 8379 4725

Email:

Pauline.Kettless@enfield.gov.uk

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 There are 28 local and national providers delivering Housing Related Support to 2500 service users.
- 1.2 Since 2010 there been a programme of re-tendering, renegotiation and re-modelling of services, generating £1.3 million of budget reductions and savings for Housing Related Support; or approximately 11.6% of the budget.
- 1.3 Co-ordination of re-tenders and remodelling of services with operational colleagues is essential to deliver on client group specific strategies and the overall Commissioning Strategy.
- 1.4 The approach proposed to re-tendering is aimed to generate further savings, whilst ensuring continuity of support and care for existing vulnerable service users.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of this report and the need to achieve the savings proposed without destabilising the market in the short term.
- 2.2 That Members consider, review and approve renewing contracts to cover the proposed savings timetable.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Housing Related Support was introduced in 2003 under the title 'Supporting People'. Covering a wide range of client groups, including:
- Mental Health
 - Learning Disabilities
 - Younger Persons
 - Older People
 - Substance Misuse
 - Domestic Violence
 - Ex-offenders

Housing Related Support providers deliver support to over 2500 service users many of who require low level support to maintain tenancies, manage bills, access benefits and seek employment. Many of these service users accessing Housing Related Support may not be deemed eligible to access higher levels of support for various client groups.

- 3.2 Quality of these services are routinely monitored and all Housing Related Support providers must achieve at least a 'C' standard of the Communities for Local Government Quality Assessment Framework (QAF).
- 3.3 Since 2009 there has been major savings achieved and a number of services have been remodelled to deliver improved services that will be appropriate for the future.
- 3.4 In 2011/12 a major re-tendering of Younger Persons Services took place in conjunction with Children's Services. The service was remodelled and a clear pathway for Younger People was designed to support the work undertaken by Young Persons Housing Support Service at the Angel Centre.
- 3.5 The re-model and tender of the Younger Persons services also generated savings details of which can be found in part 2 of this report.
- 3.6 In 2012/13 Floating Support services across all client groups are being re-tendered in order to provide Value for Money services. These services will deliver support to a range of service users in order to maintain tenancies and prevent homelessness.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Re-tendering all the remaining services immediately will present considerable resource implications for the Council and Providers, would destabilise the market, and possibly affect client care.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The renewal of the current contracts will:

- enable the Council to ensure that appropriate contractual and monitoring arrangements are in place whilst services are reviewed in the context of the Personalisation Agenda and the Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategy
- stabilise market rates and give greater control on service quality
- provide continuity of care for existing providers.
- permit the Council to focus resources on other major re-tendering and procurement projects to deliver savings and efficiencies

6 COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 Please see Part 2 of this report.

6.2 Legal Implications

6.2.1 Under Section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 the Council may provide residential accommodation who by reason of age, illness, disability or other circumstance are in need of care and attention. Part III of the Childrens Act 1989 confers a duty on the Council to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need by providing a range of appropriate services. The National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the Mental Health Act 1983 also place duties on the Council to provide support services to its residents. Section 1 of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 provides that where there is a statutory provision that confers a function on the Council it shall also confer a power on the Council to enter into contract with a third party to make available those assets or services or both. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives a local authority power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.

6.2.2 The contract extensions must be in a form approved by the Assistant Director for Legal Services.

7 KEY RISKS

7.1 If contract renewal was not agreed then resources will need to be deployed in order to deliver the re-tendering exercise; this in turn will

impact upon major re-tendering exercises already identified in Health and Adult Social Care.

- 7.2 The savings and timetable for Housing Related Support remodelling will be undertaken in conjunction with the development of the Mental Health Strategy. If re-tendering is undertaken early and in isolation there is a risk that market will be destabilised and the cost transferred from Housing Related Support and pushed onto Mental Health and Adult Social Care budgets.

8 IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All

- 8.1.1 Extension of the Housing Related Support contracts will ensure high quality, accessible services for all

8.2 Growth and Sustainability

- 8.2.1 The services work with a range of client groups and needs. They often support people at times of crisis helping them and preventing those clients accessing more expensive Care and Nursing services and ensuring that they maintain their tenancy and avoid becoming homeless.

8.3 Strong Communities

- 8.3.1 The services provided help the community maintain a high degree of independent living and prevent service users becoming homeless.

9 EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An equalities impact assessment has not been undertaken in support of this recommendation as it does not represent a change of circumstance for service users and key stakeholders.
- 9.2 The advantage of renewing current Housing Related Support contracts will allow existing high quality services that meet assessed needs of customers to be continued to be provided. No customers will be adversely affected by this recommendation. Individual Equalities Impact Assessments will be undertaken in line with the re-tendering.

10 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are two national indicators monitored and reported on.

- National Indicator NI 142 - Service users who are supported to establish and maintain independent living (as a percentage of the total number of service users who have been in receipt of support services during the period). Used for long-term accommodation based and floating support services.
- National Indicator NI 141 -: Service users who have moved on in a planned way from temporary living arrangements (as a percentage of service users who departed from the service). Used for short-term accommodation based services.

These indicators help quantify the outcomes of service delivery for Housing Related Support providers

10.2 All Housing Related Support Providers are required to achieve at least a 'C' level on the Quality Assurance Framework in order to maintain funding from the Authority. The majority of Housing Related Support Providers achieve higher and any seeming to have gaps against the standard after their annual review are worked with in order to deliver improved quality.

10 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct Health implications but all Housing Related Support Providers delivering accommodation based services make sure their service users are registered with a G.P. They also provide signposting services for all clients.

Background Papers

None in Part 1