

REPORT TO CABINET

20 February 2019

Subject:	Supported Lodgings for Homeless Young People
Presenting Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ann Shackleton - Cabinet Member for Social Care
Director:	Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing – David Stevens Director – Prevention and Protection – Stuart Lackenby
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Forward Plan (28 day notice) Reference:	SMBC10/02/2019
Cabinet Member Approval and Date:	Cllr Shackleton - 23 January 2019
Director Approval:	Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing – David Stevens Director – Prevention and Protection – Stuart Lackenby
Reason for Urgency:	Urgency provisions do not apply.
Exempt Information Ref:	Exemption provisions do not apply.
Ward Councillor (s) Consulted (if applicable):	This is a boroughwide initiative.
Scrutiny Consultation Considered?	Scrutiny have not been consulted.
Contact Officer(s):	Craig Stevens

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DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Authorises the re-procurement of the Supported Lodgings contract detailed in this report.
2. Authorises the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer to enter into contracts for supported lodgings with successful tenderers for a period of two years with the option to extend these contracts further for two periods of one year on terms to be agreed by the Executive Director – Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing.
3. That any necessary exemption be made to the Council’s Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019 to enable the award of the supported lodgings contract.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the Council to re-procure the contract for Supported Lodgings which is due to end on 31 July 2019.
- 1.2 The report also seeks authority for the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing to award a contract to a successful bidder, following a re-procurement exercise for an initial two-year period with the option to extend the contracts by two further periods of one year.
- 1.3 The specialist nature of the provision and the need to have ready and available trained hosts with accommodation at commencement of the contract reduces the number of suitable providers potentially available to take forward this service and so if fewer than three bids are received then an exemption to rule 8.7, 8.10 and 8.11 of Procurement and Contract

Procedure Rules 2018-2019 is requested to allow the contract to be awarded

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE VISION 2030

2.1 This report contributes to two of the Council's ambitions these being:

- Our communities will feel safe, more protected and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods; and that
- Sandwell will be a borough where families' aspirations are raised and that prides itself on equality of opportunity and resilience

2.2 This is due to the support provided preventing homelessness and supporting people into independent living.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Sandwell Council currently contracts with a single provider for supported lodgings as an accommodation based homeless prevention service for young people aged 16-18.

3.2 The current contract is for 15 units of accommodation based with hosts within their own homes for Sandwell young people 16-18 who are currently or are at risk of being homeless.

3.3 The contract for this service are activity based, therefore, the Council only pays for the units when utilised and occupied with approved Sandwell referrals.

3.4 Services play a fundamental role in reducing the number of people in bed and breakfast and temporary accommodation and preventing incidences of homelessness within the Sandwell Borough.

3.5 Services offer a room with a trained vetted host offering the young person a safe supportive environment to stay while they prepare for independent living. Clients can reside in services for up to the age of 18 or until clients can successfully move on to independent living.

3.6 Areas of support include:

- Improving access to health services and encouraging healthy lifestyles;
- Improvement in independent living skills through; practical skills, financial literacy and financial management skills and social skills;

- Improvements in people's physical, emotional wellbeing and mental health;
- Improvement in people's relationships with family and friends;
- Improvement in people's social behaviour by reducing anti-social or offending behaviour;
- Reducing social exclusion by improving access to employment, education or training;
- Providing stable accommodation for care leavers;
- Reducing criminal activity and anti-social behaviour; and
- Reducing substance misuse and improving access to services.

3.7 The current annual total value of the contract for this service is £63,250.

3.8 Utilisation within all Supported Housing services fluctuates during a 12-month period with seasonal peaks and troughs expected within such services. It is also important to ensure that schemes, where possible, have capacity to take on clients in an emergency.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The current contract expires 31 July 2019 and the Council has no ability to extend these contracts further. Therefore, re-procurement of these contracts is required to continue the provision of service.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 People currently accessing these services have been consulted with as part of the review of service and case studies are attached. See Appendix 1.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 An exemption to standing orders to enable a direct award to the existing provider could be an option however as the current one year contract was awarded on these terms, it is preferable that the Council put this contract out to the market so to reduce any risk of legal challenge.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The current annual financial commitment for this contract is £63,250 per annum, the proposed maximum contract value over the potential maximum contract term of four years is £253,000.

7.2 If approved, the proposed contracts will be at the same value or less than the existing contracts and can be funded from existing budgets.

- 7.3 The corporate risk management strategy has been complied with to identify and assess the risks associated with the decisions being sought. This has identified no red risks that require reporting.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.2 The Council will utilise the most efficient and effective contracting mechanism in full compliance with The Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019.
- 8.3 Under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and in accordance with Sandwell's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, in relation to the procurement exercise a contract notice will be published on In-tend – the Council's e-procurement portal - and on the Government's Contract Finder website.
- 8.4 The Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019 require that at least three tenders for contracts of this value are received. Therefore, given the limited number of providers expected to be in a position of having sufficient and available hosts and accommodation to satisfy the requirements of the contract specifications an exemption under rule 8.7 of Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019 is requested to allow a contract to be awarded if fewer than three tenders are received.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Screening document has been completed and this identifies that there is likely to be no adverse impact on protected groups because of these proposals.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 The Council's Data protection requirements are included within all contracts for commissioned services.
- 10.2 Any changes due to the Introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) will be built into our standing contracting documents for new contracts and issued by variation for existing contracts.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 The services outlined in this report all support those at risk of homelessness and are likely to support clients at a higher risk of having a history of offending. The support offered aims to help clients manage their behaviour and to live independently.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 The proposals contained within this report are intended to ensure that the supported housing sector has a level of consistency for both the Local Authority, Providers and people who access services.
- 12.2 The re-procurement of the contract detailed in this report will look to maintain a similar specification of service at a consistent level of delivery although the new specification will look to provide the Council with the option to extend the age limit for Supported Lodgings to 25 should it consider it appropriate to meet the needs of the client group.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 13.1 Wider Social Value will be fully considered when undertaking the procurement process.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

- 14.1 Not applicable.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 Cabinet is asked to support the recommendations of this report to ensure the ongoing provision of homelessness prevention services.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

17 APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Client Case studies

David Stevens
Executive Director - Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing