

## CABINET MEETING – 20 JULY 2011

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

**Title of Report:**

Extension of Current Agreements with Housing Related Support Providers.

**Author(s):**

Executive Director Health, Housing and Adult Services

**Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of the report is to request Cabinet to note and endorse extensions to the current agreements with housing related support providers.

**Description of Decision:**

Cabinet is recommended to note and endorse the extension of the current agreements with housing related support providers for housing related support contracts for a period of 12 months (1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012).

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? \*Yes/No**

**If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework**

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

To enable the current provision of housing related support to continue until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, whilst Health, Housing and Adult Services continues with ongoing engagement and consultation with providers and service users to establish what services need to be commissioned and how they need to be commissioned. This work is in line with the housing related support service assessment.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

There is no alternative to this decision.

**Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?**

Yes

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?**

No

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee:**

Health and Wellbeing  
Sustainable Communities



**REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT SERVICES**

**EXTENSION OF CURRENT AGREEMENTS WITH HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT PROVIDERS**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to request Cabinet to note and endorse extensions to the current agreements with housing related support providers.

**2. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION**

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to note and endorse the extension of the current agreements with housing related support providers for housing related support contracts for a period of 12 months (1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012).

**3. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The former Supporting People Programme was introduced in 2003, bringing together seven housing-related funding streams across central Government. At that time contracts were entered in to with a range of different providers in the city, many of which are still in place to this day.
- 3.2 The Supporting People Programme was a Government initiative to ensure that the necessary support was provided to vulnerable people who needed support to help manage their accommodation needs. The programme covered three main areas, namely;
- **Social Exclusion** – those who were homeless or threatened with homelessness or needed specific support, e.g., domestic violence, teenage parents, young people with complex needs.
  - **Independent Living** – those with a learning disability or mental health needs.
  - **Care and Support** – for those living in sheltered accommodation or elderly persons' accommodation, Telecare services.
- 3.3 Services are largely delivered by the voluntary and community sector and housing associations although there are some internal services in respect of Independent Living. There are currently 26 providers delivering 125 contracts.

- 3.4 The Supporting People Programme formally ended on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. To enable the implementation of the newly commissioned service delivery models before March 2012 the Council needed to put in place a transition plan to ensure the needs of vulnerable people are considered and met throughout the process of change.
- 3.5 The transition plan is to extend all existing agreements to allow a continuous service to be delivered during the move to the newly commissioned models.
- 3.6 The purpose of the extensions to the agreements is to reduce the risk of vulnerable people either entering high cost care services or being at risk of homelessness which may be some of the consequences if the Council was to withdraw all services from April 2011 without an appropriate alternative in place.
- 3.7 The provision of Supporting People services are part of the Service Review for Housing Related Support.

#### **4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 In line with Health, Housing and Adult Service's 15 Year Plan we are reviewing all our programmes to ensure that we deliver better outcomes and achieve efficiencies. With this in mind we commissioned a fundamental Service Review of Housing Related Support that began earlier this year, with the intention of looking at all aspects of the programme and setting new and revised outcomes.
- 4.2 The Strategic commissioning Team (SCT) have met with all housing related support providers in a number of forums and on a 1:1 basis. The SCT have successfully negotiated price reductions with providers earlier this year. Further 1:1 meetings are to be arranged with providers to continue to engage and consult with them regarding future commissioning intentions. These meetings will also be a forum to discuss continued funding until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.
- 4.3 Discussions have also taken place with providers regarding a collaborative approach to consulting with service users and this is to be explored further prior to implementation.

#### **5. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

- 5.1 To ensure a smooth transition from the current commissioned housing related support market to the newly commissioned services, in line with the principles set out in the service assessment for housing related support. This approach will also provide continuity of service for the most vulnerable service users during the transition period.

#### **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no alternatives options.

## **7. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

### **7.1 Financial Implications/Sunderland Way of Working**

Contracts have been agreed concerning all agreements based on the quality score and price rating for each agreement calculated from a value for money toolkit. The total amount to be paid for 2011/12 for all external contract agreements is £5.385m and this will be met from existing budget provision.

### **7.2 Legal Implications**

Legal services have been consulted and their comments reflected in this report.

### **7.3 Procurement**

Corporate Procurement are aware of the service assessment for housing related support and will be involved in future work.

### **7.4 Sustainability**

This decision would support the aims of the Sunderland Strategy. This has been demonstrated through a Sustainability Impact Appraisal which has been undertaken for this cabinet report which also found that the extension of housing related support agreements will help to improve the council's sustainability, recording no negative impacts. The sustainability team has been consulted on this appraisal.

### **7.5 Equality Impact Assessment**

The extension of contracts will allow time for a thorough Equality Impact Assessment to be undertaken which will ensure that the needs of service users are fully understood and taken in to account in the new commissioning arrangements.

### **7.6 Providers have been informed of our suggested way of working within individual meetings and also via Partnership Events held in February, April and May to which all providers were invited. Further meetings and engagement is planned with providers between now and the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, as well as engagement with service users.**

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

