

CABINET MEETING – 5 SEPTEMBER 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Review of Housing Related Support Services

Author(s):

Executive Director Health, Housing and Adult Services

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to seek retrospective approval from Cabinet in relation to the funding arrangements for housing related support providers for 2012 – 2014 and to approve the award of a grant to Gentoo for the delivery of a Community In Reach Service for Older People

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is asked to approve:

- Retrospectively, the funding arrangements for housing related support providers for a period of 24 months (1st April 2012 – 31st March 2014), and
- the award of a grant to Gentoo for the delivery of a Community In reach Service for Older People

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:

As part of the Business Transformation Programme a series of service reviews were undertaken across the Council. Housing Related Support with funding arrangements for providers formed part of the Service Review. The review concluded that Housing Related Support Services should continue to be provided with existing providers but subject to new funding arrangements and new ways of working until 31st March 2014.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

Do Nothing – this is not an option, as the previous funding allocations were unsustainable.

Re-procurement of services – this was considered but there is a mature market of local support providers in the city who could have been adversely affected by a re-procurement exercise. Furthermore, housing related support monies are provided to organisations to compliment their overall service delivery, not fully fund them. It was also felt not to be in the best interests of service users, who may well have had to switch support providers, if their existing provider would have been unsuccessful.

Impacts analysed:

Equality

☒

Privacy

☐

Sustainability

☐

Crime and Disorder

☐

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

Is it included in the Forward Plan?
 No

Scrutiny Committee

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

APPROVAL OF FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS TO HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT PROVIDERS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek retrospective approval from Cabinet in relation to the funding arrangements for housing related support providers for 2012 – 2014 and to approve the award of a grant to Gentoo for the delivery of a Community In Reach Service for Older People.

2. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve:
- Retrospectively, the funding arrangements for housing related support providers for a period of 24 months (1st April 2012 – 31st March 2014), and
 - the award of a grant to Gentoo for the delivery of a Community In reach Service for Older People

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Supporting People programme was introduced in April 2003 as a ring fenced programme with specific grant conditions that funded housing related support services for identified vulnerable people.
- 3.2 Following the Supporting People national strategy the programme was sub-divided into three sectors, these being:
- Care and Support – services for older people
 - Social Exclusion – a range of floating support and accommodation based services for homeless people, those at risk of domestic violence, offenders, drug and alcohol etc
 - Independent Living – services for people with learning disabilities, mental health and physical disabilities (long-term conditions)
- 3.3 The Supporting People Programme formally ended on 31 March 2011. To enable the implementation of flexible service delivery linked to outcomes for service users, the contractual arrangements were extended for all providers to ensure continuity of support for service users during the transition to a more flexible service.
- 3.4 As part of the Council's overall budget settlement for 2011/12 the Government reduced the funding available for housing related support services. This was incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Strategy for Health, Housing and Adult Services. With this in mind the review focused on a different approach to the delivery of services that would improve outcomes, introduce smarter ways of working and deliver efficiencies.

4. OUTCOME OF THE SERVICE REVIEW

4.1 The focus of the Service Review was on the contractual arrangements in place with third parties; rather than the overall spend within Supporting People programme, as the in-house provision was subject to a separate service review of Care and Support Services.

4.2 The key findings of the service review were:

- Output driven service provision
- A lack of focus on prevention
- Isolated service provision, which drove silo working amongst providers
- Focus on organisations needs rather than the individual
- Excess amount of 'contractual' agreements in place (124 across 26 providers)
- Monitoring arrangements were bureaucratic
- Opportunities for collaboration amongst providers needed to be nurtured

4.3 In response to the findings, it was agreed that the contractual arrangements in place needed to change, as the focus was on the purchasing of blocks number of hours (floating support) or beds (accommodation provision), with limited flexibility. Furthermore, the following actions have been progressed with providers:

- Development of an Outcomes Framework – this will ensure that providers focus on both organisational competencies and outcomes for individuals;
- Pathway Development – across the 'social exclusion' sector, a range of services had been developed which did not take into account the 'customer journey' approach; often duplicating provision and excluding individuals. With this in mind a 'Gateway approach' has been introduced, managed by the Access to Housing Service, in order that the pathways for people who have been traditionally served by the 'social exclusion' sectors can be better co-ordinated to maximise opportunities and to improve move on;

Throughout the Review process there was regular communication with providers, both on a group basis and individually, and through them consultation with service users. There has been cooperation from all providers and an increased recognition for the need for collaboration across/amongst providers, in order that efficiencies can be achieved through different and smarter ways of working.

Throughout the Review process regular reports and updates were provided to Portfolio Holders explaining the outcomes of the Review and the proposed way forward.

4.4 Through the establishment of grant agreements, service provision has moved from block arrangements to flexible delivery of accommodation with support, which is responsive to demands and provides opportunities for collaboration amongst providers.

- 4.5 A specific recommendation of the Service Review was the development of a Community In Reach Service for Older People to meet the housing related support needs of older people living in their own accommodation regardless of tenure. Previously Supporting People monies had only provided support to people who lived in sheltered accommodation schemes.
- 4.6 A competitive grant opportunity was offered to previously funded Supporting People providers to enter into a joint arrangement with the Council. The successful provider was required to match fund the available monies (£500,000 per annum) and deliver the In Reach Service which is focussed on case finding older people in order to implement preventative interventions thus reducing or delaying the need for ongoing social care services and use of acute health services. This fits with the 15 year Plan for Adult Social Care and with the Council's objective to be a Community Leadership Council, with a focus on responsive local services, prevention and early intervention, whilst also recognising the role that our partners can play in service delivery. The new approach we will better able to manage demand and ensure that there are targeted interventions for older people and access to practical and emotional support where required.
- 4.7 Gentoo is the successful provider and will be match funding the Council's contribution with £1,134,000 per annum. This grant arrangement will be in place for 2 years, commencing October 2012.
- 4.8 Funding arrangements are to award grant funding to 12 organisations for the delivery of housing related support services to the value of £3,588,847 per annum for 2012/13 and 2013/14 (see Appendix 1). In line with the Sunderland Way of Working and the need to reduce transactional costs the funding arrangements will involve quarterly payments in advance as the providers were previously paid monthly. This will also reduce transactional costs and help provide stability to the providers.
- 4.9 Initially, it was felt that moving to a grant based approach to provision would not require Cabinet approval, but having now concluded the competitive grant exercise for the Community In-reach model and due to the sums involved it was felt that Cabinet should be made aware of the overall outcome of the review and the proposed funding arrangements and approach, hence the request for retrospective approval.

5. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 5.1 By providing grant monies to the 12 Housing Related Support providers, there is an opportunity to implement the findings of the service review and reduce the number of arrangements with providers through identification of outcomes that we want existing providers to achieve, allocating a set amount of funding per provider; rather than an actual amount per individual element of a service.
- 5.2 This moves away from the block arrangements in place, allowing for innovative and flexible work with providers. It will also allow for collaboration amongst providers, supporting the achievement of more efficient and effective service delivery.

- 5.3 A competitive grant opportunity was offered to previous Supporting People funded organisations to develop a joint venture with the Council in relation to the delivery of a Community In Reach Service for Older People. The grant provided by the Council is £500,000 per annum (for a period of 2 years) with the successful applicant required to match fund the grant. Gentoo has been successful in the grant application and are to provide £1,134,000 per annum towards the service.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 Do Nothing – this is not an option, as the previous funding allocations were unsustainable.
- 6.2 Re-procurement of services – this was considered but there is a mature market of local support providers in the city who could have been adversely affected by a re-procurement exercise. Furthermore, housing related support monies are provided to organisations to compliment their overall service delivery, not fully fund them. It was also felt not to be in the best interests of the service users, who may well have had to switch support providers, if their existing provider would have been unsuccessful.

7. IMPACT ANALYSIS

7.1 Legal Implications

Legal Services have confirmed that the proposals are legal.

7.2 Sustainability

This decision would support the aims of the Sunderland Strategy, in relation to Health City objectives.

7.3 Equality Impact Assessment

The awarding of grant funding was a decision taken after an Equality Impact Assessment was completed to understand impact on service users in the commissioning decision made.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

APPENDIX 1**Financial Implications HRS Services**

Provider	Client group	Funding 2012 – 2013	Funding 2013 – 2014
Gentoo	Young People with Complex Needs	£467,156.22	£467,156.22
Centrepont	Young People with Complex Needs	£262,381.55	£262,381.55
Cheviot Housing	Families	£143,675.30	£143,675.30
Sunderland YMCA	Young People with Complex Needs	£284,099.24	£284,099.24
NECA	Single People With Complex needs	£221,772.19	£221,772.19
Norcare	Single People With Complex needs	£237,502.93	£237,502.93
Richmond Fellowship	Single People With Complex needs	£42,086.72	£42,086.72
Tees Valley	Young People with Complex Needs	£117,690.98	£117,690.98
The Salvation Army	Single People With Complex needs	£316,650.72	£316,650.72
WWIN	Domestic Violence and Young People with Complex Needs	£641,292.62	£641,292.62
MHM	Mental Health	£280,265.06	£280,265.06
Stonham	Single People With Complex needs	£74,273.65	£74,273.65
Gentoo	Older Persons In Reach Support	£500,000.00	£500,000.00
	TOTAL	£3,588,847.18	£3,588,847.18

