

**Report for**      **Cabinet Member Signing – 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Title:**            Extension of Housing Related Support Contract- Somewhere Safe to Stay with All People All Places

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**Ward(s) affected:**      All

**Report for Key/**

**Non-Key Decision:**      Key Decision

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to extend the contract with All People All Places Charity for the Somewhere Safe to Stay Service, for the period 1st April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at a total additional cost of £95,967.96, as allowed under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 16.02.

**2. Introduction**

- 2.1. Housing Related Support (HRS) services play a vital role in the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping in the Borough. We know that people who experience rough sleeping face a wide range of inequalities and some of the worst health and housing outcomes of all our residents, including significant risk of a preventable early death.
- 2.2. As part of our response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Council committed to providing emergency accommodation and support to single homeless adults who were rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping. This commitment acknowledged the particular vulnerabilities and inequalities they face; the extended opening of the Cranwood night shelter maximises the use of our buildings and resources to continue to deliver this commitment as pandemic restrictions and risks slowly ease.
- 2.3. The building from which the service is currently provided is due for demolition in Summer 2021 to make way for new housing development as part of the Council's Housing Delivery Programme. MHCLG are aware of this and have confirmed that no further grant funding will be made available for the night shelter after June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021. This request is for a final 3 month extension to the contract to allow for a planned programme of decant for all residents. As of the 6<sup>th</sup> May, 16 residents have identified move on routes out of the service into other forms of housing and supported accommodation. For the 14 remaining

residents a multi-agency decant panel has been convened to meet bi-weekly for the remainder of the contract, to ensure that move-on accommodation and support plans are in place for all.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. For the Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal to approve, in accordance with Contract Standing Order 3.01(d) and Contract Standing Order 16.02, the extension of the contract with All People All Places for Somewhere Safe to Stay Service for the period 1st April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at a total additional cost of £95,967.96. The total aggregated value of the contract over the 21-month contract period is £583,636.55, inclusive of the proposed extension.
- 3.2. The extension will allow the service to continue providing accommodation and support for up to 30 individuals for an additional 3-month period.

### **4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1. As part of the response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, Haringey Council is committed to providing emergency accommodation and support to single homeless adults who are rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping. This commitment acknowledges the vulnerabilities and inequalities they face and will ensure they are able to adhere to government guidelines, where they would not ordinarily have the accommodation or financial means to do so. As of April 2021, Government advice to stay at home to avoid contracting or spreading COVID-19 still remains, as does advice to adhere to social distancing guidelines. This demonstrates the need for the service which provides accommodation for up to 30 people, who may otherwise be street homeless.
- 4.2. Additional and confirmed funding from the Rough Sleeping Initiative administered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), will meet the cost of the proposed extension. This will in turn contribute to enabling the Council to meet its strategic commitments to residents around rough sleeping and single homelessness.

### **5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1. The Council is not statutorily required to provide this service. It would therefore be lawful not to approve the extension proposed and for the contract and service to be brought to an end. However, the Borough Plan (2019-2023) sets out a commitment to end rough sleeping in Haringey. The Council successfully bid for funding from MHCLG's Rough Sleeping Initiative to deliver interventions which will achieve this aim, as such it is in the Council's best interests to approve the proposed extension.

### **6. Background information**

- 6.1. Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness and arguably the most damaging. It causes significant harm to individual physical and mental health, general wellbeing and drastically reduces life expectancy. A woman sleeping on the streets has a life expectancy of 41 years and a man 43 years, almost 40

years younger than the average life expectancy for the general population. In Haringey, approximately four people affected by rough sleeping die prematurely each year, with an average age at death of just 47 years old.

- 6.2. Rough Sleeping and the street-based behaviour often associated with it, such as begging, street drinking and other forms of antisocial behaviour, are damaging to communities and individuals. People who are rough sleeping are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and trafficking, as well as to hate crime and other forms of victimisation. Some groups are particularly vulnerable to this; women, young people, learning disabled adults, LGBTQ+ people and people from migrant communities. The provision of emergency accommodation is a key mechanism through which the Council and its partners can prevent and respond to such experiences and inequalities.
- 6.3. The contract Somewhere Safe to Stay with All People All Places was awarded for 1 year from September 2019 at a value of £205,838.00. A variation of up to £61,729.59 was agreed in July 2020 for additional resources to cope with the pressures of Covid-19, and a further extension of 6 months valued at £220,101 was agreed in September 2020. With the proposed extension valued at £95,967.96, this brings the total value of the contract to £583,636.55.
- 6.4. Key performance indicators, as well as qualitative methods of outcomes monitoring, are integrated within the service specification. These are monitored in contract monitoring meetings and monthly reporting expectations. The service is currently delivering the expected outcomes and service users report being satisfied with the support and assistance they receive.

## 7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1. This contract supports the delivery of the Housing priority in the Borough Plan (2019-2023) 'A safe, stable and affordable home for everyone, whatever their circumstances', in particular to;
  - 2a) Reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation by a third to under 2000 by 2022
  - 2c) Aim to end street homelessness by 2022
  - 2d) Ensure access to high quality housing support that prevents or relieves homelessness for people with additional needs
- 7.2. The service directly links to **Priority 2** – *Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives:*
  - All residents will be as healthy as possible for as long as possible.
  - Health related quality of life will improve over time (including mental health and wellbeing)
- 7.3. The service will contribute to the strategic objectives of Adult Social Care and their partners to offer preventative interventions at individual and community levels, preventing escalation of need and offering viable options to residential care.

- 7.4. The service will contribute to the delivery of the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping (2018) strategies by helping to prevent and relieve homelessness, reduce the use of temporary accommodation and provide rapid exit from street homelessness for those in need.
- 7.5. The service also contributes to the Council's statutory responsibilities under a range of legislation including the Homelessness Reduction Act (2018), the Care Act (2014) and the Equality Act (2010), by providing housing-related support to vulnerable people in order to ensure they are able to live independent, fulfilling and active lives in the community for as long as possible.

## **8. Statutory Officers comments**

### **8.1. Finance**

- 8.1.1. The contract extension for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 is estimated to cost £95,967.96
- 8.1.2. This cost of the extension will be funded from Rough Sleeping Initiative grants provided by the MHCLG and should not present additional financial burdens to the council.

### **8.2. Procurement**

- 8.2.1. Strategic Procurement note the contents of this report and can confirm the proposed contract extension is in accordance with CSOs 10.02.1(b) and 16.02 and does not contravene Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations (PCR) 2015.
- 8.2.2. Strategic Procurement recognises the need for these services in exceptional circumstances and supports the extension of the contract of the reasons stated in this report; however, Strategic Procurement would advise no further extensions are entered into under this current contract, without first consulting with Strategic Procurement to ensure the Council remains compliant with the PCR's.

### **8.3. Legal**

- 8.3.1. The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of the report.
- 8.3.2. The aggregate value of the contract including the extension is more than £500,000 and therefore pursuant to Contract Standing Order 3.01(d) the proposed award must be treated as a key decision.
- 8.3.3. Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 16.02 the Cabinet Member with the relevant portfolio has authority to approve the extension which this report relates to.
- 8.3.4. The Head of Legal and Governance sees no legal reasons preventing the Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal from approving the recommendations in the report.

## 8.4. Equality

8.4.1. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

8.4.2. The proposed decision will allow the service to continue providing accommodation and support for up to 30 individuals for an additional 3-month period. As stated in the report, rough sleeping disproportionately impacts certain groups, including those with protected characteristics; women, young people, learning disabled adults, LGBTQ+ people and people from migrant communities.

8.4.3. This extension will therefore help the Council to meet its equalities duties and address known inequalities affecting individuals with protected characteristics, relating to age, sex, sexuality, gender identity, race, and disability. Accordingly, the decision represents progress to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity and will have a positive overall equalities impact.

## 9. Use of Appendices

## 10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985