

Report for: Cabinet Member Signing

Title: Extension of contract with Thamesreach for the Haringey Street Outreach Team (HSORT)

Report authorised by : Gill Taylor – Interim Assistant Director for Adults, Health & Communities

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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 Haringey Street Outreach (HSORT) contract for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, as allowed under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 10.02.1(b).

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

3.1 For Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters, and Planning to approve, in accordance with Contract Standing Order (CSO) 10.02.1(b), the extension of the contract with Thames Reach Charity for Haringey Street Outreach Service (HSORT) from 01/04/23 until 31/03/24. The aggregated contract value including the extension is £620,520.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 This extension is needed to continue providing a street outreach service to support people experiencing rough sleeping off the streets and into accommodation.

4.2 Due to increased flow on to the streets and funding from the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing &

Communities (DLUHC), this proposed extension will better meet demand for the service which in turn will enable the Council to meet its strategic commitments to residents around rough sleeping and single homelessness.

4.3 Funding for the Haringey Street Outreach Team is via the Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-2025. It is ringfenced solely for this purpose and can be used only to commission Thames Reach Charity Ltd to deliver a street outreach team. Thames Reach were identified in the bid as the partner organisation and the bid was approved by DLUHC on this basis.

4.4 Financial provision exists within the Housing-Related Support budget to meet the additional costs of this variation.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 The Council is not statutorily required to provide these services. It would therefore be legal not to approve the extension proposed and let the contract lapse. However, the Haringey Borough Plan (2019-2023) sets out a commitment to ending rough sleeping in Haringey and the Council has received funding from DLUHC to do so, as such it is in the Council's best interests to approve the proposed variation.

5.2 It would be possible to insource the service, and this was explored as part of the tender process for the main contract. However, due to existing implementation and insourcing commitments made by the Housing Related Support Service, it is not possible to insource the street outreach team as we do not currently have the required specialism and the service wouldn't be financially viable. What's more the current contract is due to expire at the end of March 2023, and therefore additional time is required in order to go out to tender or to in-source the service. The intention is for the Council to revisit the viability of insourcing of the service in the mid-term future.

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.

- 6.3 A Request for Quotation (RFQ) was undertaken via the Council's e-tendering portal (HPCS). A contract was awarded and commenced on 1 April 2021.
- 6.4 The bid was evaluated and found to meet quality and price criteria stated and was awarded at a total value of £310,562. A variance to the contract was approved to include an additional lead worker in the service for a total value of £408,044.
- 6.5 The current contract expires on 31st March 2023 with a total value of £408,044. The cost of this extension is £212,476 bringing the total aggregated value to £620,520.
- 6.6 Key Performance Indicators, CHAIN data analysis and other qualitative methods of performance management are integrated within the service specification and will be monitored through contract monitoring meetings and reports. This reporting will enable the Council to submit monthly data to DLUHC on the performance of our overall rough sleeping programme.
- 6.7 Monitoring meetings with the provider and local service managers will be held on a quarterly basis. The purpose of monitoring meetings will be to ensure the outcomes set out in the contract are achieved and that service users and local staff and stakeholders are satisfied with the service and able to feed their views and insights into operational delivery.
- 6.8 Responses to Streetlink referrals are partially within the remit of the Rapid Response Team provided pan-London by Thamesreach and commissioned by the GLA. However, there is limited capacity within the Rapid Response Team to offer dedicated casework support, therefore it is clear that Haringey, and all other London boroughs, require a dedicated and discrete outreach team to ensure this work takes place.

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 High level strategic outcomes

- 7.1 This contract supports the delivery of the Housing priority in the Borough Plan (2019-2023), in particular Priority 1: 'a safe, stable and affordable home for everyone, whatever their circumstances', in particular to;
- Reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation
 - Aim to end street homelessness

- Ensure access to high quality housing support that prevents or relieves homelessness for people with additional needs

7.2. The service also supports the delivery of the People Priority in the Plan, *'Strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential'*, in particular to;

- People will be supported to live independently at home for longer
- Adults will feel physically and mentally healthy and well
- Adults with multiple and complex needs will be supported to achieve improved outcomes through a coordinated partnership approach

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, decreasing demand on supported housing, preventing escalation of need and offering viable options to residential care.

7.4 The services 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 to ensure they are able to live independent, fulfilling and active lives in the community for as long as possible.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

8.1 Finance

8.1.1. Comments have been provided by Zarah Coowar.

8.1.2. The report seeks cabinet approval to extend the contract to Haringey Street outreach Service for 12 months from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 at a cost of £212,476. The total aggregated value of the contract including the extension will be £620,520.

8.1.3. The costs of the contract extension will be fully funded from the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) grant. The grant available in 2023-24 will be able to fully cover the costs of the contract extension.

8.2. Procurement

8.2.1. The existing contract allows for an extension, so this is a compliant extension.

8.2.2. Preparation should commence for retendering this service, to ensure that at the end of this extension a new contract is in place.

8.3. Head of Legal & Governance [Oliver Higgins – Principal Lawyer]

8.3.1. The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in drafting this report.

8.3.2. The extension of contract which this report relates to is provided for in the Contract and is therefore compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

8.3.3. Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 16.02 the Cabinet Member having the relevant portfolio responsibilities has authority to approve the recommendations in the report.

8.3.4. The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters, and Planning 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.

8.4.2. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

8.4.3. 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.

8.4.4. The proposed decision extends the contract provide a street outreach service for an additional year. This will 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.

8.4.5. The service is likely to have a positive impact on individuals who are vulnerable to homelessness. Data held by the Council suggests that women, young people, BAME people, those who identify as LGBT+ and disabled individuals are particularly vulnerable to homelessness, as detailed in the Equalities Impact Assessment of the Council's Draft Homelessness Strategy, accessible at [this link](#). As such, it is reasonable to anticipate a positive impact on residents with these protected characteristics.

8.1 Use of Appendices

N/A