

MINUTES OF CABINET MEMBER SIGNING MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2022, 4.30 - 5.10 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Lucia das Neves, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing.

In attendance: Felicity Foley, Business Manager; Bezuayehu Gubay, Strategist and Commissioner; Sarah Hart, Senior Commissioner; Will Maimaris, Director of Public Health; Vicky Murphy, Assistant Director for Adults; Gill Taylor, Assistant Director for Communities and Housing Support; and Fiona Rae, Acting Committees Manager.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANT AWARD FOR ROUGH SLEEPING DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT

The Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing considered the report which sought approval to accept the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Grant and award 2022-25.

In response to a question from the Cabinet Member, it was noted that there would be a separate budget for in patient and residential provision within this grant. In relation to residential services, it was clarified that a person's pathway and post-residential options would be fully designed in advance. It was added that it would be possible to adapt and improve the pathway as more people used the services. It was explained that work in this area often took some time and it was often necessary to build trust and relationships. It was noted that the 2020-21 programme had significantly reduced the amount of drug related homeless deaths by 40% which was a key success.

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

1. To approve the receipt of the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) grant for Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol, for the year 2022/23 and 23/24 as permitted under Contract Standing Orders 16.02 and 17.1.
2. To note that the indicative total value of the grant will be £1,184,613.

Reasons for decision

Substance misuse is a prevalent issue for those with a history of rough sleeping and is often an impediment to their moving to settled accommodation, if left untreated.

In 2021/22 Haringey Council successfully bid for a grant from OHID to provide street-based substance misuse services to those with a history of sleeping rough. The bid was designed by staff and residents with lived experience. Having successfully delivered on the 2021/22 programme OHID has now released further funding for Haringey for the years 2022-24. Delivery has been so successful that our grant has now been increased to a value that requires Cabinet member agreement.

Alternative options considered

The Cabinet Member could refuse to receive the grant. However, as there was a clear need for this work and strong support to tackle the impact of substance misuse on the homeless community, this option has been considered and rejected.

4. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY AND CONTRACT EXTENSION AND VARIATION OF THE CONTRACT TO HUMANKIND CHARITY

The Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing considered the report which sought approval for the receipt of supplemental grant funding for Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery and sought variation and extension of the contract to Humankind as set out in the report.

It was noted that performance was built into the contract management processes and that specific steps could be taken in the case of any issues. It was also noted that financial reports were requested from providers at the end of the financial year.

Following consideration of the exempt information,

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

1. To approve the receipt of the Office for Improvement and Disparities (OHID) grant 'Supplemental funding for substance misuse treatment and recovery' for the year 2023/24 and 2024/25 in accordance with Contract Standing Orders (CSO) 16.02 and 17.01 The value for the indicative grant will be £1,303,160 for 2023/24 and £2,515,389 in 2024/25.
2. In accordance with Contract Standing Orders 16.02 and 10.02 .1 (b), to agree the use some of the grant monies (as outlined in this report) to vary the existing contract with Humankind Charity for Integrated adult substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery services lot two from 1st April 2022 until 31st January 2025 a period of or 31 months) at a total value of £918,332.
3. To include the Supplemental grant, financial year 2022/23 £283,290 and subject to OHID agreement 2023/24 £346,387 and 2024/25 £288,655.

4. In accordance with CSO 16.02 and 10.02.1 (b), to agree contract extension of the Humankind contract for Integrated Adult Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery services: lot two, for two years from 1st February 2023 until 31st January 2025, such extension to include the variation referred to in para 2.2 above. Total value of extension £1,779,814.56.
5. To delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to approve a further extension in the total value of £57,731 for a further period of 2 months from 1 February 2025 to 31 March 2025.

Reasons for decision

Accepting the grant - Reducing the impact of drugs and alcohol misuse on adults, families and the community is a cross cutting Council priority. The Council therefore welcomes a significant uplift in funding for substance misuse treatment. The public health team along with providers and service users have designed the services that this grant will be used for.

Preferred providers - Humankind is an existing provider of Haringey substance misuse services, having successfully bid in an open tender process for the Alcohol service, Young People's service, Recovery services and as a sub-contractor of the criminal justice elements of the Drug service. It has partnered with the Council in several successful bids. It is strongly invested in building a better future for Haringey residents with substance misuse issues. Humankind is one of 4 providers receiving funding from this grant, others include two resident peer led organisation and our NHS substance misuse provider.

Continuation elements within the Supplementary Contracts – services within the 2022/23 Supplementary grant are not new, they were contracted within the one-year Universal grant 2021/22 and delivered by Humankind. Before awarding the Universal contract to Humankind, steps were taken to ensure that Humankind would deliver the universal services well. Humankind was a partner, with other agencies, commissioners, and services users in the successful bid for the universal grant. Humankind is still the right organisation to deliver these services well, for it has delivered the Universal contract in line with key performance indicators, overseen by Public Health commissioner's reporting into a steering group.

Projects within the new Supplementary grant are continuations of the Universal grant, there must not be a break in service. Humankind has already recruited into posts, established delivery, and successfully met outcomes. For these services Humankind is the only viable provider.

New elements – Humankind's Haringey workforce are our major asset, for it is their relationship with clients that makes Haringey's treatment system successful. In 2021, with agreement from the Council, Humankind conducted a pay review. All staff are paid London Living Wage, however for many years they have not had pay increases in line with inflation. Providers have needed to keep costs low to be competitive in tenders. Also, we want to keep our staff in Haringey, so agreed to benchmark our salaries with other competitor services in other local authorities. A pay award has been agreed between the Council and Humankind.

Back dating – We are asking for the decision maker to agree that the funding to Humankind Charity in respect of the contract variation to be backdated to April 2022. The reason for this is that Haringey's bid for 2022/23 Supplemental grant included pay increases to staff from April 2022. This was accepted by OHID, but not in time for the funding to be applied from April 2022.

Variation – Variation of the main contract for Adult Substance Misuse treatment and recovery services, is permitted by Contract Standing Orders.

Extension of main contact - After an open tender process in October 2018 Cabinet awarded a contract to CDP Blenheim (who became Humankind Charity), for Integrated Adult Substance Misuse treatment and recovery services. The award was for a period of four years with an option to extend for 2 years and a further period of 2 years total value £7,170,567.54 (for 8 years). This initial term of the contract expires on 31st January 2023. The contract is performing satisfactorily, and it would not be in the Council or residents' interest to go out to the market at this stage for a new provider.

Alternative options considered

The Cabinet member could refuse to receive the grant. However, as there was a clear need for this work and strong support to tackle the impact of substance misuse on the community, this option has not been considered.

The Cabinet member could choose not to award the grant to Humankind and go to market for the Supplemental projects; however, it is agreed that Humankind is the only viable provider and as co-designers of the bid and existing providers, best placed to ensure services are delivered well.

The Cabinet member could choose not to vary the existing contract, however setting up a separate contract would create duplication and avoidable administration costs.

The Cabinet member could decide not to allow backdating of the contract, however the pay award has been agreed by OHID to be paid from 1st April, so it is included within the grant.

The Cabinet member could decide that the main Humankind contract should not be extended, as the existing service is delivering well, going through the disruption of a tender process is not in the interests of residents.

5. PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONED GENERAL PRACTICE PREVENTION SERVICES

The Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care, and Wellbeing considered the report which detailed the outcome of an open tender process and sought approval to award contracts to the successful tenderers for the Provision of Public Health commissioned General Practitioners Prevention Services in accordance with Contract Standing Order (CSO) 9.07.1 (d).

Subject to approval, the contracts would be awarded for a period of four (4) years, commencing from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2026 with an option to extend for a further period, or periods, of up to a total of four (4) years.

It was noted that, for NHS health checks, practices would be set a maximum cap which would be allocated annually based on population, level of deprivation, and performance. It was stated that there were also community based health checks that were targeted in the east of the borough.

In relation to the number of tenders received across all Lots, it was explained that further procurement would be undertaken. It was commented that a different model might need to be considered for future delivery.

Following consideration of the exempt information,

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

1. To approve the award of contracts for the Provision of Public Health commissioned General Practitioners Prevention Services to the successful tenderers (identified in exempt Appendix 1), for a period of four (4) years, commencing from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2026 with an option to extend for a further period, or periods, of up to a total of four (4) years, in accordance with CSO 9.07.1(d).
2. To note the contract prices: Unit costs for each activity within individual lot has been fixed by the Council based on benchmarking with other Local Authorities. The rate for each activity is agreed with Local Medical Committees (LMC) and GP federations prior to publishing the tender and subject to review every 2 years.
3. To note that, currently, the maximum available budget for these contracts is £1,078,052 for 4 years and £2,156,104 for 8 years (if extended). GP practices will claim based on activity. For NHS health checks, practices will be set a maximum cap. This will be allocated annually linked to eligible population, level of deprivation and performance.
4. To note that insufficient tenders were received across all Lots, therefore a further procurement process will be undertaken as a matter of priority to commission the remaining services. This would not increase the maximum available budget allocated to these services.

Reasons for decision

There is a clearly identified need within Haringey for these services to improve health outcomes for local people, including tackling health inequalities that exist for particular groups and local areas.

The decision to award contracts to the successful tenderer is based on the conclusion of a competitive procurement process. The proposed recommendation to award the contracts is made according to the outcome of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender, as detailed in section 6 of this report.

The recommended providers submitted a tender bid and have demonstrated that they have necessary accreditation, expertise and qualification to provide the services required.

Alternative options considered

Do Nothing - The Council could choose to no longer commission this service. However, National Health Service (NHS) Health Checks are a mandated service, so an alternative way of delivering would need to be found. It has been concluded that not providing these prevention services would be damaging to residents, especially those from economically disadvantaged groups. This is an extensive, specialist programme of services reaching residents living in the most deprived areas of the borough, whose lifestyle behaviour's is an important factor in their increased risk of developing a range of long-term conditions, many of which go undiagnosed. Local delivery of these services is valued, many women prefer to have their Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) appointment at a local GP. GP opiate substitute prescribing is recommended by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) as an effective way to deliver drug treatment.

Extend existing contracts – Extension periods available within the existing contracts have been exhausted.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as items 7-8 contained exempt information, as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); paras 3 and 5, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

7. EXEMPT - REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDING FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY AND CONTRACT EXTENSION AND VARIATION OF THE CONTRACT TO HUMANKIND CHARITY

The Cabinet Member considered the exempt information.

8. EXEMPT - PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONED GENERAL PRACTICE PREVENTION SERVICES

The Cabinet Member considered the exempt information.

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr das Neves

Signed by Cabinet Member

Date ...16 September 2022.....