



## **REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **COMMISSIONING HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION ACCOMMODATION SERVICES**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. Public Health Committee is requested:
  - a. To note progress on commissioning a Quick Access Temporary Accommodation Support service across Nottinghamshire County to prevent homelessness.
  - b. To approve the proposal to go out formally to tender for a framework agreement for this service on an interim basis in order to ensure compliance with the EU procurement regulations.
  - c. To approve the proposed contract period of 1 year, from September 2016, with an option to extend for a further 12 months in 3-month increments i.e. (1+1) up to a maximum of 2 years.
  - d. To give delegated authority to the Director of Public Health (or their authorised deputy) in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Public Health Committee to award to the successful bidder(s) once the tender is concluded and for Public Health Committee to receive an update following the conclusion of the tender.

#### **Information and Advice**

2. During 2015 Adult Social Care reviewed homelessness prevention services with the districts and NHS partners. This demonstrated that there was no suitable alternative to the Council's commissioned temporary accommodation support service for people who become homeless but who do not meet the criteria for priority re-housing under the district councils' statutory responsibilities.
3. The Quick Access Temporary Accommodation Support Service provides support to people who are in temporary accommodation, in order to facilitate them in taking up move-on or permanent accommodation.
4. In February 2014, following feedback from the public to its consultation and an equality impact assessment, the County Council identified £1 million from the Public Health Grant to fund housing related support services for people at risk of homelessness. Further consultation with partner organisations including district and borough strategic housing managers, showed that retaining the Single Adult Homelessness Quick Access Accommodation services was considered a priority.

5. The contract with the current provider was extended from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 for 12 months under a Financial Regulations Waiver and a VEAT Notice was published to allow for a procurement process to take place. The contract extension ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and the service is continuing by agreement between the commissioner and the provider, pending formal tender.
6. This service is part of a range of services that contribute to homelessness prevention. The wider homelessness prevention pathway is currently being reviewed with district council and NHS partners.
7. The service contributes to the following Public Health outcomes:
  - 1.13 Re-offending rates
  - 1.15 Statutory Homelessness
  - 1.18 Social Isolation
  - 2.10 Self harm
  - 2.23 Self-reported well-being
  - 4.10 Suicide rate.

### **Other Options Considered**

8. As the contract with the incumbent provider has already been extended for a year and a formal VEAT Notice issued, the Authority has no alternative but to tender this service.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

9. The Council needs to go out to tender to ensure compliance with the EU procurement regulations, and to provide assurance that the service procured represents value for money.
10. In compliance with County Council policy, the Council must ensure that the quick access temporary accommodation support service provision offers value for money and supports Public Health outcomes.
11. On the advice of Procurement, the most appropriate procurement process would be through open tender. In order to comply with the EU procurement regulations, it is necessary for the Council to go out formally to tender for this service to be in place as soon as practicable.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

14. On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016 Full Council approved the realignment of £922,000 from the Public Health Grant to support the continuation of a quick access accommodation support service across the county from April 2016 to April 2017 (Budget Approval 2016-17).

## **Implications for Service Users**

15. This is a vulnerable client group and the procurement of Quick Access Temporary Accommodation Support services enables the Council to continue to offer support whilst working with partners to review the whole homelessness prevention pathway in context.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

16. A significant proportion of people at risk of homelessness are ex-offenders and the provision of temporary accommodation reduces the likelihood of re-offending.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) It is recommended that Public Health Committee:
  - a) Notes progress on commissioning a Quick Access Temporary Accommodation support service across Nottinghamshire County to prevent homelessness.
  - b) Approves the proposal to go out formally to tender for a framework agreement for this service on an interim basis in order to ensure compliance with the EU procurement regulations.
  - c) Approves the proposed contract period of 1 year, from September 2016, with an option to extend for a further twelve months in 3-month increments i.e. (1+1) up to a maximum of 2 years.
  - d) Gives delegated authority to the Director of Public Health (or their authorised deputy) in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Public Health Committee to award to the successful bidder(s) once the tender is concluded and for Public Health Committee to receive an update following the conclusion of the tender.

**Barbara Brady**  
**Interim Director of Public Health**

### **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (EP 06/05/2016)**

17. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Public Health Committee by virtue of its terms

of reference. Any contract to be entered into should be in a form approved by the Group Manager Legal and Democratic Services

### **Financial Comments (KS 09/05/2016)**

18. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 14 of the report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All