

Report to Interim Director of Public Health

March 2021

Accommodation Based Support for Alcohol/Drug Recovery – Award of Contract

Report by Senior Commissioning Manager, (Adults Services and Health)

Electoral division(s): All

Summary

The Council commissions accommodation-based support for adults affected by high risk substance misuse, and who require specialist interventions to achieve safe, sustained recovery and reintegration into local communities. This is funded through the Public Health Grant.

The current contracts for this service provision end 30 September 2021.

In February 2020, approval was given for the commencement of an open procurement for Accommodation Based Support for Alcohol/Drug Recovery, Key Decision Report [Reference AH10 19/20](#). The procurement has been delayed due to Covid-19 and pressures on the market.

The overall objectives of the service to be delivered from 1 October 2021 are not changed, but there are some new elements which are in scope and which will enhance existing provision. These are detailed in Section 1 of this Report.

A competitive procurement exercise has been undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulation 2015 under the Light Touch Regime. The Council is now in a position to award the contract.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Interim Director of Public Health approves the award of the West Sussex County Council Accommodation Based Support for Alcohol/Drug Recovery to Turning Tides for an initial period of four (4) years commencing 1 October 2021 with the option to extend for up to two (2) further years should the delivery and performance of the contract be satisfactory.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 Those with housing or homelessness problems are at greater risk of the harms of substance misuse, and this is especially true for rough sleepers. Equally,

substance misuse can be a factor leading to housing problems and homelessness.

- 1.2 The provision of Accommodation Based Support with Alcohol/Drug Recovery is an important resource that has offered a security of tenancy (funded by Housing Benefit) alongside specialist 1-1 and group activities that support individuals to reduce substance related harm and work towards longer term abstinence.
- 1.3 As part of the new contractual requirements the provider will need to be Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered, in order to provide regulated activities for people who require treatment for substance misuse. This will mean an increase in the local provision of medically assisted alcohol withdrawal programmes for West Sussex residents. It will divert some people away from needing more costly residential detoxification services.
- 1.4 The new service will provide a minimum of a 10% increase on current activity.
- 1.5 The new service will report performance to the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), and so will contribute to the measure of Public Health Outcome Framework (PHOF) indicators for West Sussex.
- 1.6 The decision to commence the procurement was taken by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health in February 2020 ([Key Decision Report Reference AH10 19/20](#)).
- 1.7 A Contract Notice was issued in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on 4th December 2020 (ref 2020/S 237-586964) Further promotion of the opportunity to tender was made through the West Sussex e-Sourcing Portal and Contracts Finder.
- 1.8 The tender evaluation featured both a technical and commercial element with a 60/40 percentage split (60% technical / 40% commercial). The technical element of the tender included six method statement questions and minimum scoring requirements to determine the ability of the bidder to deliver the required services.
- 1.9 The tenders were evaluated between 19 and 26 January 2021, and a moderation meeting was held on the 27 January 2021 to discuss and agree final scores. Technical scores were then combined with the commercial element score to determine the total awarded score.
- 1.10 The bidder was asked to submit their financial information; Commercial Finance carried out checks to ensure the financial stability of the bidder.
- 1.11 The appointed Procurement Manager ensured that the procurement process was compliant.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Contract for the delivery of Accommodation Based Support for Alcohol/Drug Recovery is awarded to Turning Tides. Turning Tides will be working with Stonepillow and Emerging Futures on a sub-contracting basis. The contract will be held by Turning Tides, however the Council will ensure that sub-contracting arrangements are finalised ahead of the contract commencement.

2.2 The Contract will commence on 1 October 2021 and is for four (4) years with an option to extend for a further two (2) years.

3 Consultation

- 3.1 A pre-tender market engagement meeting was held in September 2019, to explain requirements to suppliers and obtain a better understanding from the market about approaches to the technical solution. The event was well received and attended by 6 suppliers.
- 3.2 Co-production meetings were held in October 2019 with residents at each of the existing services, and views used to inform development of the service specification.
- 3.3 Public Health comparator areas were contacted for information on the approach that they took to the commissioning of similar services.
- 3.4 The (draft) Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment Study currently being completed by the Public Health Research Team gives a clear illustration of service demand and the pathways for adults with substance misuse need and housing insecurity.

4 Finance

4.1 Revenue consequences of proposal:

- 4.1.1 The new contract will run for a period of four (4) years from 1 October 2021 with the possibility of a further extension for up to two (2) years as detailed in the terms of the contract.
- 4.1.2 The maximum total value of the contract funded by the Public Health Grant is approximately £2.11million (including the extension period).

	Financial Year 1 2021/22 £m (from Oct 2021)	Financial Year 2 2022/23 £m	Financial Year 3 2023/24 £m	Financial Year 4 2024/25 £m	Financial Year 5 2025/26 £m	Financial Year 6 2026/27 £m	Financial Year 7 2027/28 £m (to Sept 2027)
Revenue budget	£0.176	£0.351	£0.351	£0.351	£0.351	£0.351	£0.176
Change from Proposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total budget	£0.176	£0.351	£0.351	£0.351	£0.351	£0.351	£0.176

4.2 Future savings/efficiencies being delivered:

- 4.2.1 Within the same financial envelope as the current contract, the benefit will be a 10% increase in activity and an increase in clinically suitable provision

for individuals who are drinking at hazardous levels. This will be achieved through economies of scale and improved care pathways. The quality of service provision will not be affected. There is also potential for the increase in service capacity to avoid more expensive specialist inpatient detoxification placements, which is an outcome that will be closely monitored.

- 4.2.2 Added value is brought by partners and sub-contractors to the contract who can demonstrate clear examples of where they have worked with individuals and their families to build valuable recovery capital, helping people recover from substance misuse difficulties and reintegrate into their community.

4.3 **Human Resources, IT and Assets Impact:**

There is no impact identified.

5 **Risk implications and mitigations**

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Failure for the new service to be delivered on time and from the service commencement date.	Both incumbent providers are part of the proposed successful bid (as prime contractor and as a sub-contractor). A six-month mobilisation plan will be robustly monitored by the Council.
A slowing down or a pause in KPI improvements	Mitigated by existing performance management arrangements and oversight. Commissioner/provider relationship is positive. Performance measures and improvement are tracked. Contract terms will allow leverage through Improvement Plans if required.
Lack of internal resources to effectively manage the contracts.	Through internal governance and escalations any impeding risks will be raised.
Service Provider is unable to source suitable accommodation	Both incumbent providers are part of the proposed successful bid and confirm that the existing accommodation is part of the solution.

6 **Other Options Considered**

- 6.1 Alternative procurement options were considered as part of the Key Decision [Report Reference AH10 19/20](#).

7 **Policy alignment and compliance**

- 7.1 The provision of an effective and quality drug and alcohol service contributes to the West Sussex goals of improving the health and wellbeing of residents of all ages, and to supporting stronger and safer communities.
- 7.2 The Council is the lead commissioner for the contract therefore the services fall under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the value of the contract will be over the EU threshold for such services (£615,278)

Crime and Disorder

- 7.3 The Council has a responsibility to minimise crime and anti-social behaviour which can be associated with substance misuse. The services provided under this contract focus on improving health and wellbeing, which in turn reduces the likelihood of the above behaviours. The service includes dedicated outcome measures around working with adults known to the criminal justice system.

Social Value and Sustainability Assessment

- 7.4 Social Value was included within part of the Key Decision Report (ref AH10 19/20) and subsequently included in the procurement process as award criteria.

Equality and Human Rights Assessment

- 7.5 All residents of West Sussex with assessed eligible substance misuse needs have the right to have these met with support from the local authority. The services have been developed to ensure the Council can meet this

Climate Change

- 7.6 Not applicable

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Appendices None

Background papers None