



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

SEPTEMBER 2014

**SUPPORTING PEOPLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE CONTRACT
EXTENSIONS AND VARIATIONS**

Report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

Open report

Classification - For Decision
Key Decision: No

Wards Affected: All

Accountable Executive Director: Liz Bruce - Executive Director Tri-Borough Adult Social Care

Report Author:
Julia Copeland Commissioning Manager Supported Housing

Contact Details:
Tel: 020 8753 1203
E-mail:
julia.copeland@lbhf.gov.uk

AUTHORISED BY:

The Cabinet member has signed this report.

.DATE: 5 September 2014.....

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the recommendation that the Council utilises the extension provisions available in two existing Supporting People domestic violence contracts. The Council is currently determining the commissioning requirements for future Violence against Women & Girls services including Tri-borough commissioning and procurement options; this review is not led by Adult Social Care. Both contracts expire on 30th September 2014 and are included in the scope of this review. In order to provide continuity of service to vulnerable residents it is necessary to extend the contracts whilst the council concludes the review of its future requirements.
- 1.2 One of the contracts is a Floating Support service provided by Shepherds Bush Housing Group (SBHG) and currently provides support to 40 women and children in the community who have experienced domestic abuse. The second contract is for the provision of two refuge services providing 13 units of accommodation in the borough, provided by Hestia Housing & Support.
- 1.3 Both services provide a range of practical and emotional support including income maximisation, debt management, budgeting, resolving tenancy issues, independent living skills, reducing social isolation, signposting to employment, training & education opportunities and improving health and well-being. Services are short-term and support individuals to help themselves and reduce their dependency on services in the future.
- 1.4 A commissioning review of these contracts in September 2013 indicated both contracts are providing good quality services to vulnerable women and children. However, SBHG has recently indicated that the floating support contract is no longer financially viable for their organisation and they were seeking an early exit from the contract. We have subsequently agreed a proposal to reduce the capacity of the service for the period 1/10/14-31/3/15 at revised terms; delivering a saving to the council, ensuring vulnerable people continue to receive a service and that the contract is financially sustainable for this period. This report therefore also includes the recommendation to vary the terms of the SHBG contract for the stated period.
- 1.5 on 13th May 2013, Cabinet delegated the authority to extend and or vary the contractual terms of Supporting People contracts, including the Family Mosaic contract to the Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That approval be given to the extension of the Shepherds Bush Housing Group Domestic Violence Floating Support contract from 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015 as set out in Table 1 of the report and to vary the contract as set out below at a total cost of £33,501 in 2014-15:

- i. From 1/10/14 to 31/3/15 reduce the capacity of the contract from 40 households to 20 households.
- ii. For the period of 1/10/14 to 31/12/15, reduce the annual contract value from £144,544 to £73,593.16 (pro rata).
- iii. For the period 1/1/15 to 31/3/15, reduce the annual contract value from £73,593.16 to £60,412.84 (pro rata).

2.2 That approval be given to extend the Hestia Housing and Care Domestic Violence Refuge Contract from 1 October 2014 to 31 March 2015 at a total cost of £70,612 as set out in table 1 below.

Table 1

Contract	Contract start	Contract end	Current Expiry Date	Proposed extension	Current annual contract value	Total extension value
Shepherds Bush Housing Group – Floating Support	1/05/2010	30/4/2013 with option to extend for 2 X 12 month periods	30/9/2014	1/10/14 - 31/3/15	£144,544	£33,501
Hestia Housing & Care - Refuges	1/4/2011	31/3/2014 with option to extend for 2 X 12 month periods	30/9/2014	1/10/14 - 31/3/15	£141,225	£70,612

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1 The Council (not led by Adult Social Care) is currently reviewing the future commissioning arrangements for Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) services, including future Tri-borough procurement and commissioning options. The two contracts described in table 1 are included in this review. Both contracts expire on 30th September 2014 and it is important to ensure continuity of service to vulnerable residents while the council determines future requirements.
- 3.2 A review of both services was carried out by Tri-borough adult social care commissioners in 2013-14 and the findings confirmed that the contracts are providing important services to vulnerable women and children who are experiencing domestic violence. Both contracts have delivered savings in the last 18 months. However, an action plan was put in place for the Shepherds Bush service to improve the throughput rate of cases and to ensure a better system for prioritising cases to make the service more efficient and better value for money for the council.

- 3.3 It is necessary to vary the capacity and contract value of the Shepherds Bush floating support service as the current arrangements are not financially sustainable for Shepherds Bush. By varying the contract for the period 1/10/14-31/3/15 we enable continuity of service to vulnerable people while the council determines its future commissioning requirements and deliver savings for the council. The exit strategy will ensure that all the cases assessed as ready for closure are managed effectively and that a risk assessment is completed. In addition because the 2013 review identified that SBHG could improve the service throughput rate and that some individuals should have been referred to other services from the outset, officers are confident that the council will continue to be able to meet the needs of women experiencing domestic violence.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The former Supporting People programme was established in 2003 and the responsibility for commissioning and contracting housing support services transferred to local authorities. Housing support services include floating support and accommodation services for people experiencing domestic violence and abuse. In 2009/10, LBH&F reconfigured domestic violence housing support services and commissioned the two services detailed in Table 1 above. These services are funded from the Supporting Budget that transferred to Tri-borough Adult Social Care (ASC) in 2012.
- 4.2 In LBH&F, the strategic responsibility for VAWG services sits with Community Safety, but several council departments fund VAWG services including Housing and Regeneration, 3rd Sector Investment Fund, Children's Services and the ASC Supporting People budget.
- 4.3 The current arrangements are fragmented; as outlined above the council is currently considering the future strategic priorities and commissioning & contracting arrangements for VAWG services. The scope of this review includes Tri-borough options and transferring the budgets for the two services listed in Table 1 to another LBH&F department to deliver more joined up services and savings.

5. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Council extends the two contracts as set out in Table 1. Both contracts expire on 30th September 2014 and need to be extended as the council's future requirements are under review and it will not be possible to have alternative arrangements in place before the current contracts expire.

6. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

Do Nothing

6.1 There is not an option to do nothing as existing contracts expire on 30/9/14 and there will be a reputational risk to the council if the services end before alternative arrangements are in place. Therefore this recommendation is not recommended.

Extend the contracts

6.2 It is proposed that the Council utilises the extension provisions available in the two Supporting People contracts and extends the contracts as set out above.

Vary the SBHG Floating Support Contract

6.3 SBHG has advised the council that the current contract terms are not sustainable. Initially, SBHG advised that they were looking to exit the service when the current contract expires on 30/9/14, however, it will not be possible to safely exit the service and have alternative arrangements in place by this date.

6.4 SBHG has subsequently agreed to reduce the capacity of the contract, which enables them to reduce their staffing levels so that the contract is financially sustainable until the end of the contract on 31/3/15. It is recommended that the service capacity is reduced from 40 to 20 households for the period 1/10/14-31/3/15 and the contract value varied as set out in paragraph 2.3 above delivering a £38.7K saving to the council in 2014-15.

6.5 An exit strategy has been developed and it has been identified that 50% of current cases can be safely closed over the next 2-3 months. SBHG will continue to receive new referrals up to their revised capacity of 20 households. The impact of the reduction in capacity will be offset by improved throughput, referrals to other appropriate services and better prioritisation of cases.

7. PROCUREMENT CODE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The LBHF Contract Standing Orders states that providing that the original award report contains provision relating to exercising and optional extension provision these may be authorised by the relevant Cabinet Member where the total value of the extension is £20,000 or greater but does not exceed £100,000.

7.2 The total values of the extensions in this report are £33,501 and £70,612 and therefore approval is being sought from the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

7.3 Procurement Implications completed by Sherifah Scott: Head of Procurement & Contracting (ASC) (020) 7641 8954 Verified by Joanna Angelides: Procurement Consultant 020 8753 2586.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 No consultation has been carried out in connection with the recommendations contained in this report.

9 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 We are reducing the capacity of a service for women and therefore there is a negative impact on gender. However, this will be mitigated by improving the throughput of the existing service, referring cases to other services, where appropriate e.g counselling and other specialist domestic violence services such as ADVANCE and making capacity in other floating support services where necessary.

10. RISKS

- 10.1 There is a reputational risk to the Council if the current services end before the council has determined its future requirements and before an exit plan or new services are in place.
- 10.2 There are risks to the future contract arrangements if there is a delay to the review of the council's future commissioning requirements for VAWG services. It may be necessary to extend these contracts from 1/4/15 if new arrangements are not in place by 1/4/15.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In view of the review of the services, it is necessary to extend the extant contracts as proposed so that the Council does not default on its obligations and suffers reputational risk as mentioned in this report. The Cabinet Member would have the authority under the Contract Standing Orders to approve these extensions.
- 11.2 Legal Implications completed by Babul Mukherjee: Contracts Solicitor 020 7361 3410

12. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The recommendation in paragraph 2.1 to extend and vary the contract for Shepherds Bush Housing Group Floating Support from 1st October 2014 to 31st March 2015 will cost £33,501 in 2014-15. The cost of the proposal for the period 1st October 2014 to 31st December 2014 is £18,398. The further recommendation to vary the annual contract price to £60,413 for the period 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015 will cost £15,103.

12.2 The recommendation in paragraph 2.2 to extend the contract for Hestia Housing Floating Support from 1st October 2014 to 31st March 2015 will cost £70,612 in 2014-15.

12.3 Both the extensions can be met from the 2014-15 Supporting People general fund revenue budget.

	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		Full year effect of proposals ie on-going effect
Revenue Implications	Confirmed budget £	Costs of proposal £	Confirmed budget £	Costs of proposal £	Confirmed budget £	Costs of proposal £	£n/a
Current Budgets							
Council Revenue budget	£104,113	£104,113					
External funding sources, e.g TfL, NHS etc.							
SUB TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET	£104,113	£104,113					
Start-up Costs							
Lifetime Costs	£104,113	£104,113					
Close-down Costs							
TOTAL REVENUE COST	£104,113	£104,113					
SAVINGS							

12.4 Financial implications completed by Cheryl Anglin-Thompson – Principal Accountant 020 875 4022.

Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – Background papers used in the preparation of this report

None

Contact officer(s): Julia Copeland Commissioning Manager for Supported Housing
Julia.Copeland@lbhf.gov.uk
 020 8753 1203