

**From:** Penny Southern, Interim Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health

**To:** Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

**Subject:** **VULNERABLE ADULTS HOMELESSNESS SERVICE REDESIGN**

**Decision Number:** **17/00074**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper** Adult Social Care and Health Directorate Management Team – 23 August 2017  
Strategic Commissioning Board – 5 October 2017  
Commissioning Advisory Board – 23 October 2017  
Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee - 23 November 2017 and 18 May 2018

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member decision

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** This paper provides an update on the commissioning of generic support services for vulnerable homeless adults, highlights new and emerging legislative change and sets out officer recommendations to the Cabinet Member for decision.

**Recommendations:** The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to work with commissioners to:

- a) **UNDERTAKE** a procurement exercise for the provision of new generic support services contracts for vulnerable homeless adults, which will commence from 1 October 2018;
- b) **PROCURE** a new short-term contract for offender-specific services to run from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019 at which point this contract will end; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, or other nominated officer to, implement the decision.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee received a report, provided as a background document to this report, regarding the planned recommissioning of Housing Related Support Services for vulnerable homeless adults on 23 November 2017.
- 1.2 The Committee endorsed the reconfiguration of Housing Related Support Services for vulnerable homeless adults, including offenders, to deliver a flexible, coherent service, that works alongside the Children and Young People's Housing Related Support Services.

## **2. Strategic Statement and Policy Framework**

- 2.1 The County Council does not bear the statutory responsibility for homelessness. That responsibility lies with Kent's district and borough councils under the Homelessness Act 2002 and latterly the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA), which came into effect from 3 April 2018.
- 2.2 The Act is likely to precipitate an increase in the identification of vulnerable homeless people including those with complex and multiple needs. Without appropriate support, for the neediest there is likely to be a pressure on the council's statutory services including Residential Care, Supporting Independence Services and Home Care.
- 2.3 HRA introduces a new responsibility upon specified public bodies to notify local housing authorities of existing service recipients who may already be homeless or may become homeless in the 56 days from the identification of need. This is known as the Duty to Refer.
- 2.4 Work to support the implementation of the HRA in Kent is underway. A small sub group has been pulled together to establish the impact of the Act to advise the county council, this work is being led by the council's Strategy, Policy, Relationships and Corporate Assurance team.
- 2.5 Although not a statutory duty the provision of Homelessness Support Services for vulnerable people helps prevent the need for statutory provision and aligns with Kent County Council's vision in the following ways:
  - Tackle disadvantage
  - Reduce avoidable demand on health and social care services
  - Focus on improving lives by ensuring that every penny spent in Kent is delivering better outcomes for Kent's residents, communities and businesses
  - Enable adults in Kent to lead independent lives, safely in their own community
- 2.6 These services relate most to Strategic Outcome 2 and 3 by assisting individuals to maintain housing and employment, facilitating better health and quality of life and supporting people to feel safe and supported through the transition from crisis into independent living.

## **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1 To support its Corporate Parenting role the focus of provision of Housing Related Support for young people will be to support those to whom it owes a statutory duty (Children in Care and Care Leavers) and homeless 16 and 17 year olds (in accordance with the Southwark Judgement).
- 3.2 The changes in the Children and Young People's service eligibility are likely to displace the demand for Housing Related Support for vulnerable homeless

young adults, aged 18-25. This will result in an increase in demand for vulnerable homeless adults generic services in Adult Social Care.

- 3.3 Adult Social Care is investing £5.1m into the provision of generic homelessness services to meet the needs of vulnerable adults to help them: -
- recover from or avoid a crisis;
  - they can gain the skills they need to achieve and maintain successful and independent lives, behind their own front door, within their own communities without the need for a statutory intervention
- 3.4 As detailed in the report presented to this Committee in November 2017, the adult and offender services contracts are due to expire at the end of September 2018 and cannot be extended.
- 3.5 In respect of the offender services the Committee is asked to endorse the proposed decision to procure a new short-term contract for offender specific services. The contract will run for a six-month period from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019 at which point it will end.
- 3.6 Work is currently underway in conjunction with the Kent based Community Rehabilitation Company, Kent Probation Service and the providers of these services to ensure that the needs of this cohort are provided in the best setting.
- 3.7 An update on the findings of this work will be provided to the Committee at the meeting on 30 November 2018.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The planned contract arrangements for a generic Vulnerable Homeless Adults Service are anticipated to run for five years with a total value of £25.5m (£5.1 million per annum), with the option to extend for a further two years at a further cost of £10.2 million.
- 4.2 The maximum value of the six-month short-term offender specific services contracts is £315k.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Under the Children's Act 1989, the Council has a legal duty to provide safe and suitable accommodation for Children in Care and to provide Care Leavers with support in relation to maintaining suitable accommodation.
- 5.2 Every resident over the age of 18 and or their representative can contact the local authority and where there is an appearance of need (as defined in the Care Act 2014) can have access to a needs assessment.
- 5.3 The rehabilitation of offenders is the responsibility of the Community Rehabilitation Company and was created under the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014. Finding suitable accommodation for prison leavers is one of the metrics against which the Community Rehabilitation Company's performance is

measured and rewarded. To ensure the current services for offenders are more appropriately provided the council will work with the Community Rehabilitation Company and the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with this legislation.

## 6. Consultation

- 6.1 Since November 2017, the council has continued to work closely with all sections of the community with an interest to help to shape and plan the future service. As well as one to one meetings with individual organisations, over 30 events have been held to engage with suppliers and stakeholders, including the District and Borough Councils, to garner their views on future provision.
- 6.2 Events have taken place in public spaces such as libraries, Gateways, community hubs and day centres across the county, providing the opportunity to listen to members of the public, community leaders and those who are currently using services. Care has also been taken to meet with vulnerable homeless people who are not using services now, to try to better understand the barriers they face.
- 6.3 Public consultation was undertaken between 22 January 2018 and 4 March 2018. Over 265 responses were received. There was strong support for the council's proposals to move towards an integrated service. The consultation will be published shortly.

## 7. Equality Implications

7. To ensure we understand and make reasonable adjustments, a full Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken and will continue to be refined as the commissioning and procurement process progresses. The EQIA is attached as Appendix 1.

## 8 Implementation Proposals

- 8.1 The commissioning process proposed is intended to ensure an allied transition between service models for young people and adults by 1 October 2018.

## 9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 Recommendation: The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care is asked to work with commissioners to:

- a) **UNDERTAKE** a procurement exercise for the provision of new generic support services contracts for vulnerable homeless adults, which will commence from 1 October 2018;
- b) **PROCURE** a new short-term contract for offender-specific services to run from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019 at which point this contract will end; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, or other nominated officer to, implement the decision.

## **10. Background Documents**

Vulnerable Homelessness Service Redesign report to Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 23 November 2017

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s80967/Vulnerable%20Homelessness%20Service%20Redesign.pdf>

Consultation on Homelessness Support Service for Vulnerable Adults in Kent

<https://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/homelessnessconsultation/consultationHome>

## **11. Report Author**

Clare Maynard

Head of Commissioning Portfolio - Outcome 2 and 3

03000 416449

[clare.maynard@kent.gov.uk](mailto:clare.maynard@kent.gov.uk)

### **Relevant Director**

Penny Southern

Interim Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health

03000 415505

[Penny.Southern@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Penny.Southern@kent.gov.uk)