

Officer Delegated Decision Report – 22 March 2018

Report title: Female Offender Management Service (Beth Centre): Contract Waiver

Wards: All

Portfolio: Councillor Mohammed Seedat, Cabinet Member for Healthier & Stronger Communities (job-share)

Report Authorised by: Sue Foster, Strategic Director Neighbourhoods and Growth

Contact for enquiries: Jade Holvey, Lead Commissioner, jholvey@lambeth.gov.uk, 020 7926 4877

Report summary

The Council currently funds Women In Prison (WIP) to deliver a support service for women involved in, or at risk of involvement, in the criminal justice system. This includes all women leaving prison, all serving a probation community sentence, a selected cohort of those arrested or at risk of offending and women involved in prostitution. This is known as the Beth Centre. The contract ends on ends on 31 March 2018.

The funding for offender support services will be significantly reduced from 1st April 2018 onwards. In response to this challenge we have been working to identify alternative funding streams, and in December 2017 we submitted a bid to the Mayor's Police and Crime Commissioner (MOPAC) Co-Commissioning Crime Prevention Fund to deliver a female criminal justice services across six south London boroughs (inclusive of Lambeth). We were informed on 13 February 2018 that our bid has been successful and that we would be awarded £1.6 million from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021.

The new South London service will replace the current Lambeth service, however it will not be fully mobilised, and as such will not start to deliver until 1 July 2018.

We are therefore seeking approval to extend the current Beth Centre contract under waiver from 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018. This will enable us to continue to deliver a service to vulnerable women whilst we transition to the new model.

Finance summary

The total value of a three month extension is £94,934. This cost will be fully met from the London MOPAC grant.

Recommendation

1. To waive section 9.2 of the Council's Contract Standing Orders requiring competition for contracts over £100,000 to extend the female offender management contract with Women In Prison for a period of three months from 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018 at a cost of £94,934

1. Context

- 1.1 The Council commissions a tailored support services for vulnerable and socially excluded female residents involved in the criminal justice system (CJS). The service provides some of the most vulnerable and socially excluded Lambeth residents with wraparound support, focusing on addressing their complex needs. The service is designed to reduce re-offending, to improve health and reduce social harm.
- 1.2 The Beth Centre is achieving key performance indicators with key headlines from 2016/17 below:
- Approximately 500 women accessed the Beth Centre
 - Community sentences were the most frequent sentencing option, with immediate custody in less than 11% of all cases. This is significantly better than the London average of 24%.
 - In the Police diversion pilot, 88% (of those who were eligible and referred) were positively diverted away from the CJS. Reoffending rates were low, with only three going on to re-offend.
- 1.3 The table below provides information about the service including contract term value to 31 March 2018.

Contract Term	Service / Contract Register reference	Procurement route	Term Value
01-01-14 to 31-03-17	Beth Centre / C004995	Open tender	£1,130,400
01-04-17 to 31-03-18	Beth Centre / C004995	Extension under waiver to Contract Standing Orders	£274,863

- 1.4 This is a Gateway 3 report seeking a further waiver to extend the current service for a further three months.
- 1.5 The service contributes to the “Future Lambeth; Our Borough Plan” strategic priorities:
- Reducing inequality
 - Building strong and sustainable neighbourhoods

2. Proposal and Reasons

- 2.1 The funding for offender support services will be significantly reduced from 1 April 2018 onwards. In response to this challenge we have been working to identify alternative funding streams, and in December 2017 we submitted a bid to the Mayor’s Police and Crime Commissioner (MOPAC) Co-Commissioning Crime Prevention Fund to deliver a female criminal justice services across six south London boroughs (inclusive of Lambeth).
- 2.2 We were informed on 13 February 2018 that our bid had been successful and that we would be awarded £1.6 million from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2021.
- 2.3 This grant will be used to fund the new South London female offending service. The South London service will replace the current standalone Lambeth only service, however it will not be fully mobilised, and as such will not start to deliver a service, until 1 July 2018.

2.4 We are therefore seeking approval to extend the current Beth Centre contract under waiver from 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018. This will enable us to continue to deliver a service to vulnerable women whilst we procure, and transition to the new model.

2.5 A Cabinet Member Delegated Decision Report (CMDDR) with recommendations in relation to the procurement of the new South London service will be completed in April 2018. The South London service contract and specification will be in place by 1 July 2018.

3. Finance

3.1 The contract extension of £94,934 will be funded from the MOPAC London Crime Prevention Fund grant. The total grant available in 2018/19 is £1,070,644, and so a small proportion of this grant will be used to fund the extensions.

4. Legal and Democracy

4.1 The authority to take the decision recommended in this report is delegated to the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Growth.

4.2 The proposed contract extension requires a waiver of the Council's contract standing orders. This may be approved by the Director if she is satisfied that it is demonstrably in the Council's best interests.

4.3 The services are deemed light touch services for purposes of the Public Contracts Regulations. Contract modifications are permitted in certain circumstances, including where additional services have become necessary and a change in contractor would cause unnecessary inconvenience or duplication of costs, provided that the increase in contract value does not exceed 50% of the contact price. The proposed contract extension must be aggregated with the previous extension in determining if the criteria are met.

4.4 The Council's Constitution requires that all key decisions, decisions which involve resources between the sums of £100,000 and £500,000, and important or sensitive issues must be published on the website for five clear days before the decision is approved by the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and Growth. This report does not fall into any of these categories and therefore does not need to be published. However, to ensure there is a clear transparent audit trail, it is recommended that the report be published in line with other officer decisions.

5. Consultation and co-production

5.1 As part of the development of the new South London Alliance model regular discussions and collaboration has taken place with WIP, and wider partners who will be involved in delivering the new model. This includes the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), and the Voluntary and Community Services.

6. Risk management

6.1 If the waiver is not approved, the Beth Centre would end on 31 March 2018. This would leave a gap in service provision of three months before the new service starts. It would mean that vulnerable female service users would not receive support in this period. This could potentially lead to increases in re-offending and crime within the borough. It would also mean that we would not have adequate time to undertake a planned closure of services and transition to the new model.

6.2 There are a number of mechanisms and processes deployed to monitor the performance of the provider against the requirements of the contract and provide assurance in relation to the quality of services provided. The contract has a formal quarterly review where a detailed report on service quality and performance is discussed. We will continue to maintain this process.

6.3 We will ensure that the mobilisation plan is adhered to in preparation for new service starting on 1 July 2018. This will enable us to deliver a seamless transition to the new model, taking into consideration to needs of the service users.

7. Equalities impact assessment

7.1 Crime and disorder disproportionately affects minority communities and those from lower socio-economic groups.

7.2 There is robust evidence that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities are over-represented in our prisons: approximately 25% of prisoners are from a BAME background, compared with 13% of the wider population. The situation is worse for under 18s. Over 40% of those in secure youth institutions are from BAME backgrounds – up significantly from 25% a decade ago. Offenders have also been victims of crime, may have experienced homelessness, have poorer physical and mental health, substance misuse, and poor educational attainment and employment prospects.

7.3 Our offender management services aim to redress these inequality issues providing tailored support to residents who are social excluded and have complex needs.

8. Community safety

8.1 The Beth Centre supports vulnerable residents who are at risk of involvement / have been involved in the criminal justice system to prevent, reduce or stop re-offending and turn their lives around. This will result in fewer victims and safer communities.

9. Organisational implications

9.1 Environmental

N/A

9.2 Staffing and accommodation

None.

9.3 Procurement

London Living Wage: the provider pays the London Living Wage.

9.4 Health

The services contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of their service users.

10. Timetable for implementation

#	Stage	Date
1	Decision to waive Standing Orders and agree a one-off extension	14 March 2018
2	Start date of contract extension	1 April 2018
3	End of contract extensions	30 June 2018

Audit Trail				
Consultation				
Name/Position	Lambeth directorate/department or partner	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in para:
Councillor Seedat	Cabinet Member for Healthier & Stronger Communities (Job Share)	28.02.18	01.02.18	None
Sue Foster	Strategic Director Neighbourhoods and Growth	12.03.18	13.03.18	2.5 and 6.3
Peter Hesketh, Assistant Director of Finance	Corporate Resources	27.02.18	27.02.18	Finance
David Thomas, Legal Services	Corporate Resources	27.02.18	27.02.18	4
Maria Burton, Democratic Services	Corporate Resources	27.02.18	07.03.18	4.4
Mandy Green, Assistant Director Homes and Communities	Neighbourhoods and Growth	27.02.18	05.12.17	None
Rachel Sharpe, Director Strategic Housing, Regeneration and Communities	Neighbourhoods and Growth	27.02.18	05.03.18	None
Sasa Glisic, Senior Procurement Manager	Corporate Resources	27.02.18	12.03.18	Page 1
Internal Procurement Board	13 March 2018			n/a
External	Date of meeting			

Report History	
Original discussion with Cabinet Member	24.11.16
Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?	No
Key decision report	No
Date first appeared on forward plan	N/A
Key decision reasons	N/A
Background information	None
Appendices	N/A

APPROVAL BY OFFICER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHEME OF DELEGATION

I confirm I have consulted Finance, Legal, Democratic Services and the Procurement Board and taken account of their advice and comments in completing the report for approval:

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name: Jade Holvey

Post: Head of Commissioning, Community Safety

I confirm I have consulted the relevant Cabinet Members, including the Leader of the Council (if required), and approve the above recommendations:

Signature: _____ **Date:** 22 March 2018

Name: Sue Foster

Post: Strategic Director, Neighbourhoods and Growth