

Officer Delegated Decision Report

Report title: Contract Award for Resettlement Support for Out of Hospital Care Model

Wards: All

Portfolio: Councillor Lucy Caldicott, Councillor Jim Dickson: Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (job-share)

Report Authorised by: Andrew Eyres, Strategic Director for Integrated Health and Care

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Report summary

This report seeks approval for the direct award of a contract to the British Red Cross for the provision of housing resettlement support in line with the successful South East London partnership bid to the Department of Health and Social Care for the Out of Hospital Care Model. The contract will be awarded for a period of one year from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022 with the contract value being £350,000 for the duration.

Finance summary

The value of the contract is £350,000 for one year from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022. Funding for the service will be available from the one year allocation of £678,020 for the Out of Hospital Care Mode, awarded by Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to Lambeth Council on behalf of integrated care system partners in South East London.

Recommendations

1. To waive clause 9.2 of the Lambeth Contract Standing Orders (competition requirement for purchases and partnership arrangements) for reasons of Demonstrable Best Interest and Exigencies of Service.
2. To approve a contract at a value of £350,000 to the British Red Cross for delivery of resettlement support for homeless and rough sleepers for a period of one year from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022.

1. Context

- 1.1 In December 2020 Lambeth Council submitted a successful bid to the Department of Health and Social Care, on behalf of South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (SEL CCG) and integrated care system partners to undertake a three month test a model of out care for homeless people.
- 1.2 Following the initial proof of concept, SEL CCG and system partners were invited to submit a bid via Lambeth Council to extend the bid for a further year. Having reviewed the resulting submission the DHSC has now awarded the Council one further year's revenue funding. The Council is acting as agents and fund holders on behalf of South East London CCG and ICS partners to extend the project for a full year. This will facilitate prompt discharge from acute hospitals in the locality of patients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- 1.3. The proposal is designed to release pressure within the acute hospitals by enabling people whose health needs no longer require in-patient stay to be safely and appropriately placed in step down accommodaton which allows any remaining health needs to be met, whilst a long term housing solution is arranged.

2. Proposal and Reasons

- 2.1 This report seeks to award a contract to the British Red Cross for the provision of move on and resettlement support to homeless individuals discharged from in-patient admissions to temporary step down accommodaton.
- 2.2 The care model has been co-produced with partners across South East London including acute and mental health trusts and local authorities. The proposals build on the lessons from the initial proof of concept through implementation of 'accommodation first' approach which allows discharge to a safe environment whilst longer term housing needs are assessed and sourced and enabling access to primary care, mental health and addictions services. The delivery partnership will consist of a catered hotel accommodation provider; Kings Health Partners Pathways Homelessness; peer support and advocacy; and British Red Cross that will undertake resettlement and related support activities. It is anticipated that up to fifty vulnerable homeless individuals will benefit from the resettlement support offer.
- 2.3 This covers the procurement of resettlement support. Approval is being sought to procure the supplier through a direct award as funding has only been granted for a period of one year and prompt mobilisation is stipulated to maximise benefit and achievement of outcomes. In view of this it is not considered viable to undertake a competitive exercise. Furthermore the Red Cross already have an established relationship with Kings Health Partners for provision of resettlement support and are therefore considered to be ideally placed to deliver on the project objectives.

3 Finance

- 3.1 This report seeks to award a contract for a period of 12 months at a value of £350,000 over the term of the contract. Funding is available from the DHSC grant to Lambeth on behalf of SEL CCG and ICS partners specifically for the Out of Hospital Care Model.

4 Legal and Democracy

- 4.1 The Council has delegated the authority to enact this report's recommendations to the Strategic Director for Adults and Health. Before exercising the authority, this report should be reviewed by a category board.
- 4.2 Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 the Council has a duty to take such steps as it considers appropriate to improve the health of the people in its area.
- 4.3 The Contract Standing Orders includes provision for officers to waive the requirement to competitively tender contracts valued at £100,000 and above in circumstances such as urgency, the exigencies of the services, and / or where it is demonstrably in the Council's best interest to do so.
- 4.4 Under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 the threshold at which a contract for 'social and other services' are subject to the statutory procurement regime is £663,540. For below threshold contracts, the Council's duty is to act reasonably and proportionately when evaluating the efficacy of awarding a contract to a particular provider.
- 4.5 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 Director or Cabinet Member concerned. Any representations received during this period must be considered by the decision-maker before the decision is taken.

5 Consultation and co-production

- 5.1 The initial project proposal was co-produced by local commissioners and stakeholders from Guys and St Thomas' and Kings College Hospitals subsequent to funding award, a stakeholder engagement exercise was undertaken with all other South East London acute hospitals and local authorities which further refined the proposals which now have system wide support.

6 Risk management

- 6.1 The contract awards will enable the rapid mobilisation of the project in line with the DHSC requirement which will make sure an effective and safe hospital discharge pathway is in place for homeless people whilst assisting in alleviating demand pressures on acute trusts across SE London.
- 6.2 In light of the co-design process pursued, the need to immediate mobilisation and the time limited funding envelope the risk of challenge to is considered to be low.
- 6.3 A South East London Project Steering Group has been established to provide coordination and manage the operational delivery of the project which will assure mobilisation and delivery of intended project outcomes.
- 6.4 Providers are subject to routine checks on insurance, Dunn and Bradstreet credit/financial viability tests and staff accreditation.

7 **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 Homeless people experience poorer physical and mental health when compared to the general population. In addition, homeless people or those at risk of homelessness often spend longer than medically necessary in an hospital bed due to the complexities of arranging accommodation and support. A prolonged hospital stay can lead to the increased risk of the patient group contracting hospital acquired infections and becoming institutionalised.
- 7.2 This project aims to address these inequalities by enabling earlier discharge of patients, support to make the transition to sustainable accommodation timely and by provide health services to the population to cover the transition period between hospital and a sustainable accommodation placement.

8 **Community safety**

- 8.1 The proposals will mean that potentially vulnerable homeless people are accommodated and provided access to healthcare and support thereby minimising risk of discharged to the street where they are increased of risk of harm including poor health, violence and exploitation. This will also have environmental benefits for residents and businesses in Lambeth and across South East London through improvements in the public realm such as reductions in anti-social behaviour.

9 **Organisational implications**

9.1 Environmental

Not applicable.

9.2 Staffing and accommodation

Not applicable.

9.3 Procurement

The provider will pay London Living Wage to staff recruited to deliver the service in line with a commitment to provide fairly paid employment opportunities and open up career paths in health, care and housing support.

9.4 Health

The project will provide vital support to manage the physical and mental health needs of the homeless population whilst transitioning between hospital care and mainstream health services. Substance misuse, mental health and physical health support forms part of the service offering. This will support effective management of conditions, provide opportunities for people to access new services and will hopefully lead to a reduction in re-admissions, A&E attendances and in the case of mental health, intervene before a person reaches crisis.

9.5 Social Value

Provision of the overall project will ensure that Lambeth and borough partners across South East London provide care appropriate accommodation and care to homeless people who are often marginalised and experience barriers to access to support. The

proposals also provide good quality fixed term employment opportunities for the term of the contract.

10 Timetable for implementation

10.1 The table below shows the stages, milestones and deadlines for implementing the new contract.

No.	Description	Date
1	Approval to proceed with direct award	24 August 2021
2	Contract negotiation	25 August 2021
3	Contract award	20 September 2021
4	Service start date	1 October 2021

Audit trail				
Consultation				
Name/Position	Lambeth directorate/division or partner	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in para:
Cllr Lucy Caldicott and Cllr Jim Dickson	Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care (job share)	25.08.21	31.08.21	2
Andrew Eyres	Strategic Director, Integrated Health and Care	20.08.21	24.08.21	
Fiona Connolly	Executive Director Adults and Health	20.08.21	24.08.21	
Jane Bowie	Director - Integrated Commissioning	03.08.21	04.08.21	
Pete Hesketh	Finance	03.08.21	16.08.21	
Michael O'Hora	Legal and Governance	03.08.21	03.08.21	4
Sasa Glisic	Procurement	03.08.21		Throughout
Jacqueline Pennycook, Democratic Services Officer	Democratic Services	03.08.21	06.08.21	Throughout
Internal Officer Board	Date of meeting	Date Cleared by PB		
Category Board	24 August 2021			

Report history	
Original discussion with Cabinet Member	06.08.21
Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?	N/A
Key decision report	No
Date first appeared on forward plan	N/A
Key decision reasons	N/A
Background information	
Appendices	None

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** _____

Post: David Orekoya, Associate Director-Integrated Commissioning Mental Health

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

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Post Andrew Eyres, Strategic Director for – Health and Care

Any declarations of interest (or exemptions granted): None

Any conflicts of interest: None

Any dispensations: None