

Subject:	Procurement for the provision of a “Somewhere Safe to Stay” service funded by grant by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government		
Date of Meeting:	13th November 2019		
Report of:	Executive Director for Health & Adult Social Care		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Jenny Knight	Tel: 01273 292960
	Email:	jenny.knight@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	(All Wards);		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The No First Night Out service “Somewhere Safe to Stay” opened in March 2019 following a successful grant application for this purpose to the Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government.
- 1.2 The contract with the current provider St Mungos expires at the end of March 2020.
- 1.3 This report seeks authority to secure by way of competitive tender a provider to continue to deliver the No First Night Out Service which will assist those at risk of rough sleeping into accommodation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Housing Committee:

Grant delegated authority to the Executive Director of Health & Adult Social Care (HASC) on confirmation of funding to take all necessary steps to:

(i) procure and award a contract for two (2) years to the value of £860,000 per annum or to the level of the available funding for the provision of a No First Night Out Service for adults at risk of rough sleeping.

(ii) to approve an extension to the contract referred to in 2.1(i) for a period or periods of up to two years in total if it is deemed appropriate and subject to available budget/grant funding.

(ii) to report back to Housing Committee the progress and outcomes of this service.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 A No First Night Out service is for people at risk of rough sleeping. Currently in Brighton this is called the Somewhere Safe to Stay service.
- 3.2 The Somewhere Safe to Stay service is based on the No First Night Out principle which is that people at risk of rough sleeping are offered accommodation, help and support before they end up rough sleeping. The majority of referrals into this service are from Housing Options and the service runs 24 hours a day with qualified assessment staff available at all times to welcome and assess clients any time of the day or night.
- 3.3 The city has high levels of homelessness and rough sleeping. A preventative approach ensures that people receive the support they need to recover from homelessness before they end up rough sleeping.
- 3.4 The service is funded by MHCLG grant funding which is currently in place until the end of March 2020.

The following data shows the number of people accessing the service. The key outcome for the service as monitored by the MHCLG is the number of people who end up rough sleeping following their time in the service.

Total number of people accessing the service between March 2019 to end October 2019	90
Number of people who had never rough slept before entering the service	80
Number of people found rough sleeping after leaving the service	7
Number of people who were found rough sleeping before entering the service	3

- 3.6 Funding:

Service	Grant funding for 2019/20	BHCC Funding	Current Provider
Somewhere Safe to Stay Service	£849,589	nil	St Mungos

The funding for somewhere safe to stay is provided by the MHCLG as part of the government's rough sleeping strategy.

- 3.7 If approved by Housing Committee and confirmation of grant funding is secured, the tender of the service would commence in December 2019 with service award in March 2020 and service commencement on 1st April 2020.

Timetable for commissioning:

PAB	October 2019
Housing Committee	November 2019
Tender Release	December 2019
Tender Award	March 2020
Contract Start Date	1 st April 2020

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The service could be run in house if a suitable property were available and a management infrastructure was in place. Should this be the preferred route, we would need to seek an affordable building for the Council to lease which would allow the Council to operate the service. This would require the sourcing and acquisition of a building and the appointment of a management and staffing team. This presents an issue with the timescales for operation and would likely result the service not being available for a period of time. This could put any grant funding at risk as the MHCLG want to ensure the funding is utilised to maximum effect.
- 4.2 Identifying premises for the service to operate from is likely to prove challenging with the lack of appropriate accommodation available to the Council within the city within short timescales.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The current provider has worked closely with the local community to address any concerns they have about the service. Engagement with the local community will be a requirement of the new service specification.
- 5.2 The provider will also be required to gain feedback from service users and stakeholders on their experience of the service and feed this into service improvements.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This paper is seeking delegated authority to tender and award a No First Night Out assessment service to ensure continuous delivery of a valuable service in the event grant funding is awarded from 2020/1
- 6.2 This service is one of many services in the city which address homelessness.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 This service is within the Health & Adult Social Care – Housing Related Support budget. These services have an overall budget of £5.8m for

2019/20.

- 7.2 Any funding for 2020/21 is subject to agreement at budget council.
- 7.3 The funding for these services in 2019/20 is grant funding from MHCLG which is ceasing in March 2020. Ongoing funding has not been confirmed.
- 7.4 Detailed financial modelling would need to be carried out to ascertain the financial impact from providing this contract in-house.

Finance Officer Consulted: Sophie Warburton

Date: 25/10/2019

Legal Implications:

- 7.5 The services required fall with Schedule 3 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and are therefore subject to the “light touch regime”. This means that there is flexibility as to the design of the procurement process providing that safeguards around equal treatment and transparency are observed and the process is advertised in accordance with PCR and as required by reference to the threshold value. The threshold is currently £615,000 therefore an Ojeu notice will be required as the overall value of the contract over 4 years exceeds this sum.
- 7.6 The council’s Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) will also apply.

Lawyer Consulted: Judith Fisher 24.10.2019

Equalities Implications:

- 7.7 This is a service to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping. Homeless people are some of the most marginalised and excluded within our city and the aim of the new service models is to improve services for people at risk of rough sleeping and to enable them to achieve their aspirations and play an active part in their community.

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.8 This service model fits with the Council’s Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategies to prevent people from ending up rough sleeping.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Background Documents

- 1. National [Rough Sleeping Strategy \(2018\)](#)
- 2. Brighton & Hove Rough Sleeping Strategy

3. Brighton & Hove Rough Sleeping Strategy 2016 <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/housing/homelessness-and-rough-sleepers/rough-sleeping-strategy>
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rapid-rehousing-pathway-somewhere-safe-to-stay-early-adopters/rapid-rehousing-pathway-somewhere-safe-to-stay-early-adopters>

5. Rough Sleeping Strategy: Rapid Rehousing Pathway Prospectus



RRP EOI Prospectus
Final.pdf

6. Housing Committee Report – Somewhere Safe to Stay March 2019



20190304115628_01
9592_0064152_Corr

Public Health Implications:

- 7.9 A No First Night Out service ensure that people at risk of rough sleeping have support to identify health and support needs and contributes to reducing health inequalities. Data from the Office of National Statistics; the mean age at death of homeless people was 44 years for men, 42 years for women and 44 years for all persons between 2013 and 2017; in comparison, in the general population of England and Wales in 2017, the mean age at death was 76 years for men and 81 years for women.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 7.10 This service is part of the city's rough sleeping strategy to prevent people from ending up rough sleeping.

