



CABINET

17TH NOVEMBER 2016

AGENDA ITEM (11)

COUNTY-WIDE ROUGH SLEEPING OUTREACH SERVICES

Accountable Member	Councillor Mrs. SL Jepson Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
Accountable Officer	Anne Powell Strategic Housing Manager 01285 623000 anne.powell@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	<p>To seek approval to enter into participation agreements for joint working to enable the delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) County-wide Rough Sleeping Outreach Project; (b) County Homelessness Co-ordinator; (c) Severe Weather Emergency Protocol. <p>To seek approval for the award of a re-procured contract to supply a County-wide Rough Sleeping Outreach Project for rough sleepers, focussing on prevention, support and the creation of sustainable pathways away from homelessness.</p> <p>To seek approval for the Council to continue to be the accountable body (on behalf of the participating partners) for the County-wide Rough Sleeping Outreach Project, the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE) budget, and the salary/costs of the County Homelessness Co-ordinator (CHC).</p>
Recommendation(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) That the Group Manager for Legal and Property Services be authorised to sign the participation agreements; (b) that the appropriate Strategic Director be authorised to approve the award of a contract for the County-wide Rough Sleeper Outreach service; (c) that the Council continues to be the 'Accountable Body', holding the budget and paying invoices for the three identified components, on behalf of the Funding Group.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	<p>Local authorities have a duty to advise and support people who are homeless, but not in priority need. The proposed service will assist the Council to meet this duty.</p> <p>The existing contract for the outreach service expires on 31st December 2016. The Participating Partners have requested the Council to lead on the re-procurement of the contract, and to continue to be the 'Accountable Body'.</p>

Ward(s) Affected	None specific
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	<p>Funding of £156,000 p.a. (for two years) has been committed by the nine Participating Partners (with possibility to extend +1+1+1 years) to pay for the County-wide Rough Sleeping Outreach Project, the CHC and the SWEP budget.</p> <p>The Council has committed a total of £10,000 p.a. (for two years) to the project from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Homelessness Prevention Grant, approved by the Strategic Director.</p> <p>The CHC (0.6 Full-Time Equivalent) will continue to be managed by the Council's Strategic Housing Manager within existing resources. The CHC will report directly to the Participating Partners' Steering Group.</p> <p>Minimal costs associated with being the 'accountable body' will be met by the Council.</p>
Legal and Human Rights Implications	The County-wide Rough Sleeping Outreach Project and the SWEP contribute to enabling the human rights of the most vulnerable people in the District and the wider County.
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None
Human Resource Implications	The County-wide Rough Sleeping Outreach Project and the SWEP are managed by the CHC. The post is 100% funded by the Participating Partners; the post-holder is managed by the Strategic Housing Manager.
Key Risks	As the 'Accountable Body', the Council is exposed to risks associated with the employment of the CHC, including any Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities.
Equalities Analysis	No effect on protected groups identified

Related Decisions	26th February 2015 - Decision by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing to award contract to supply a Gloucestershire-wide Assertive Outreach Homelessness Service
Background Documents	None
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Participating Partners' Financial Contributions

Performance Management Follow Up	<p>(i) Implement Cabinet decision(s).</p> <p>(ii) The Outreach Contract and SWEP (when operating) will be monitored by the CHC through monthly meetings and reports. The payment of the monthly contract invoice is subject to satisfactory report from service provider. The CHC will report to the Commissioning Steering Group on a quarterly basis.</p>
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<p>Options for Joint Working</p>	<p>This is a County-wide partnership across the six Gloucestershire District Councils, Gloucestershire County Council (Supporting People), Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG), and the Gloucestershire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), in terms of both funding and management overview.</p> <p>The procured provider will work with a broad range of statutory and VCS partners.</p>
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<p>Background Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In February 2012, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) awarded funding in a sum of £336,000 to the Gloucestershire Grouping of local authorities to prevent single homelessness and rough sleeping. The Grouping comprised the six Gloucestershire District Councils and South Gloucestershire Council (for Gold Standard training only). 2. This Council was selected by DCLG as the 'lead authority' for the Partnership, and to hold the funding. The overall priority for the funding was to develop non-statutory services for single homeless people and to ensure that there were responses in place in each District for this client group. The funding enabled a co-ordinated approach to be taken across traditional local authority boundaries, drawing on examples of good practice within the Partnership and securing value for money through economies of scale. 3. A County Homelessness Plan was developed to inform joint work, including service redesign, procurement and the future commissioning of identified projects. 4. A CHC was appointed, with line management by the Council's Strategic Housing team, to undertake a review of the needs and current services, and to co-ordinate the Grouping's response to the main target area of the homelessness prevention project. 5. A SWEP was developed as a humanitarian response to prevent excess deaths during spells of severe cold weather during the period November to March. Rough sleepers are placed in emergency overnight accommodation when the forecast temperature drops to zero degrees or below for three consecutive nights. 6. A County-wide Rough Sleeper Outreach Service was developed with effect from 1st April 2015. A sum of £124,000, plus £6,000 for personalisation, was made available for this service from the DCLG budget. Personalisation is a one-off payment for service users to support a move away from the streets and sustainment of independent accommodation. This replaced an existing service, which was ending, procured directly by the provider using Government funding via the Homeless Link. 7. A contract for the Rough Sleeper Outreach service was awarded to St. Mungo's. The contract has been overseen by the CHC. It commenced in April 2015, with funding up to September 2016 from the DCLG budget. St. Mungo's is continuing to provide the service to 31st December 2016 from its own resources. 8. Insofar as the current position is concerned, the Council has issued an Invitation to Tender for the provision of a County-wide Rough Sleeper Outreach service, published on OJEU and public sector procurement portals. 9. In order to award the contract for the Rough Sleeper Outreach Service before the current contract ends on 31st December 2016, the Cabinet is asked to authorise the Strategic Director to approve the award of the contract.

10. A draft Participation Agreement has been prepared by the Council for signature by the nine Participating Partners. Approval is sought for the Group Manager for Legal and Property Services to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council; and for the Council to remain the 'Accountable Body' for the services.

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