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**Nottingham
City Council**

Nottingham City Council Commissioning and Procurement Executive Committee

Date: Tuesday, 12 April 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Place: Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG

Councillors are requested to attend the above meeting to transact the following business

Director for Legal and Governance

Governance Officer: Mark Leavesley

Direct Dial: 0115 876 4302

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interests**
If you need any advice on declaring an interest in any item on the agenda, please contact the Governance Officer shown above, if possible before the day of the meeting
- 3 Minutes** 3 - 8
Last meeting held on 15 March 2022 (for confirmation)
- 4 D2N2 Supported Accommodation Framework** 9 - 26
Joint report of Directors for Children's Integrated Services & Commissioning and Procurement
- 5 DLUHC grant for Domestic Violence & Abuse statutory duty** 27 - 52
Report of Corporate Director for Resident Services
- 6 Grant for refugee resettlement schemes to 2027** 53 - 60
Report of Corporate Director for Resident Services
- 7 New 3-year merchant acquirer contract** 61 - 64
Report of Corporate Director for Finance and Resources
- 8 Proposed dates for 2022/23** 65 - 66
To note the proposed meeting dates for 2022/23 of:

<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
10 May	10 January

14 June	14 February
12 July	14 March
13 September	
11 October	
15 November	
13 December	

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Nottingham City Council

Commissioning and Procurement Executive Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at Loxley House, Station Street, NG2 3NG on 15 March 2022 from 10.00 am - 10.45 am

Membership

Present

Councillor Sam Webster (Chair)
Councillor Cheryl Barnard (Vice Chair)
Councillor Adele Williams

Absent

Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark
Councillor Sally Longford

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Mark Leavesley	-	Governance Officer
Claire Moores	-	School Swimming and Whynott Transport Manager
Steve Oakley	-	Head of Contracting and Procurement
Ceri Walters	-	Head of Commercial and Transformation Finance

Call-in

Unless stated otherwise, all decisions are subject to call-in. The last date for call-in is 25/03/2022. Decisions cannot be implemented until the working day after this date.

57 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Campbell-Clark	-	personal
Councillor Longford	-	unwell

58 Declarations of Interests

None.

59 Minutes

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2022 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

60 Integrated Community Equipment Loan Service Partnership - Key decision

Steve Oakley, Head of Contracting and Procurement, presented the report, which detailed the Integrated Community Equipment Loan Service (ICELS), managed through a partnership between Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG.

It was stated that the partnership has responsibility for procuring a service that provides equipment to maintain independence to citizens of all ages across

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, and the current contract has been recognised as being one of the most effective services in the region, both in terms of quality and cost.

The partnership was currently working on the process to procure a contract to replace the existing contract which expires in April 2023. The new contract is proposed to be for a period of five years, with a potential to extend for a further 5 years.

During discussion, Mr Oakley stated that the report incorrectly showed the spend was revenue, whereas it would be both revenue and capital, and that it had been approved at Capital Board in January 2022 as part of the larger DFG spend. He also stated that paragraph 5.2 (Finance comments) had a typing error, in that it should read '£0.774m per annum', not '£0.742m per annum' as stated, hence the total potential spend of £7.742m over the maximum 10-year contract.

Resolved

(1) to approve:

- (a) continuation of Nottingham City Council being a party to the ICELS partnership for the duration of the new contract term (up to ten years);**
- (b) spend of up to £7.742m on services delivered to Nottingham City Council through the ICELS partnership over the next ten years (5+5 years) based upon current budget as pooled funds under partnership arrangement;**

(2) to note the work being led by Nottinghamshire County Council on behalf of the ICELS partnership to procure a new contract from April 2023;

(3) to delegate authority to the Director of Commissioning and Procurement to sign the partnership agreement.

Reasons for recommendations

1. The commissioning of Community Equipment Services needs a partnership between the NHS and Local Authorities to work effectively and efficiently. Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Community Equipment Loan Service (ICELS) Partnership has been managing the commissioning of ICELS for the NHS, Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council for over 15 years. The partnership has been very effective with the ICELS provision being recognised nationally for being very efficient and providing a good quality service to citizens.
2. Over the last ten years the cost of ICELS to Nottingham City Council (NCC) have not increased as initiatives undertaken across the partnership have reduce costs and improved the effectiveness of the service. NHS partners have recognised changes in discharge policies have impacted the cost of the service and they have increased their contribution. At the same time, NCC has been able to reduce its contribution by circa £0.3m.

3. NCC could not source a service of the same standard at the same cost without the purchasing power of the whole partnership.

Other options considered

1. End the partnership and procure a service for NCC - this was discounted as this would increase costs both of managing our own team and from losing the efficiency of the partnership.
2. Do nothing - this has been discounted as NCC need to have an ICELS service and all evidence points to the partnership approach being the most effective.

61 Whyntott Transport Procurement - Key decision

Claire Moores, School Swimming and Whyntott Transport Manager, presented the report, and stated the following:

- a) Nottingham City Councils' Why Nott? Transport, based in the Curriculum and Enrichment Education Services, had a history of over 10 years of successfully supporting schools and academies to access educational visits, school swimming and ice skating lessons, and allows schools to secure the best price for their journey through a competitive process within a pool of pre-approved transport providers.
- b) The benefits of this to children and young people are that they can:
 - travel on transport that meets a pre-approved standard with regards safety and quality and is appropriate for any SEND requirements;
 - access a range of inclusive learning outside the classroom activities that enhance their personal development, physical and mental health and life chances.
- c) The benefits of this to schools/academies are that they can:
 - evidence they have exercised due diligence;
 - secure best value through a competitive process;
 - share vehicles with other schools to bring the costs down;
 - receive support on a scale greater than the school alone should there be issues with quality;
 - reduce the planning burden of providing inclusive learning outside the classroom experiences that contribute towards meeting CMO, National Curriculum and OFSTED Personal Development standards.
- d) The benefits to Nottingham City Council are that this service:
 - is income generating;
 - facilitates a degree of control over the costs and quality of school swimming, ice skating and adventurous activity transport (which directly affects the booking volumes for at Leisure Centres, NIC and NCC's Adventure Centres);
 - supports the inclusion of those with SEND in these activities;
 - supports compliance with the Council's statutory duties with regards Health and Safety in maintained schools;

- supports maintained schools in offering an inclusive, broad and balanced curriculum that meets the requirements of the CMO, National Curriculum and OFSTED standards.
- e) Historically, the service had been delivered jointly by Passenger Transport (Woolsthorpe) and Education through interdepartmental charging. WhyNott Transport services had now moved fully into the Education Division. This had achieved efficiencies by reducing administration and interdepartmental charging and streamlined service to customers.
- f) As part of the transformation of the service, the Education Division sought approval to continue to procure transport for school travel through the Why Nott? Transport Scheme via a range of Transport providers, as WhyNott Transport works with the vast majority of operators in Nottingham through competitive pricing strategies, and approval would enable it to continue to do so.
- g) The approval would enable the establishment of a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the contracting and supply of transportation from external transport operators.

During discussion, and in response to questions, Ms Moores stated the following:

- h) the service is a traded service, it has to be self-funding, with costs being covered by income;
- i) the condition, age etc of the vehicles provided is controlled by the DPS;
- j) due to the prohibitive cost of new, 'green' vehicles, it was unlikely that the Council's target of being carbon-neutral by 2028 would be met by this service, although it was working with procurement colleagues to try to obtain better deals. there was also work being undertaken to link the Transport Strategy across all services provided by the Council;
- k) a major risk to the service currently was the increase in fuel prices, and it had already had to introduce a fuel surcharge.

Resolved to approve:

- (1) the continued procurement of transport services for Why Nott? Transport service to support schools and other Nottingham City Council Services to enable National Curriculum Learning, such as swimming lessons and education visits, in the most economical way;**
- (2) transactions of up to £2,000,000 over a 4-year period via a DPS for the contracting and supply of transportation from external transport operators.**

Reasons for recommendations

1. The service is currently in place, well established (10+ years) and successful, both in terms of cost recovery and feedback/reputation.
2. Authorisation is sought to continue to procure transportation on the basis that there is a proven track record of financial viability and that doing so contributes positively to children and young people's learning, personal development and a

number of elements of the Council Plan. Ensuring affordable best value, high quality safe, and transit by capturing and controlling 90% the available transport operators' services in Nottingham. Whynott Transport offers a service by tender for education visits, and also combines the access to School Swimming Service to access swimming lessons for compulsory National Curriculum learning outcomes using local Leisure Centres.

3. In order to comply with NCC financial procedures, to support a further four years of contracting with suppliers and enable a DPS contracting agreement for our operators which supports the Compliant Purchasing Agreements to raise purchase orders in the Fusion system.

Other options considered

1. Not offer transport, leaving all schools to pursue their own best value. This option was rejected as, by not establishing a simple options for schools to access these services it will leave all schools to potentially face excessive inflated costs with differences in relation to location, SEND needs etc. -especially where pool lesson times are booked alongside premium scheduling for time's conflicts for operators with home to school transportation). This increase in transport pricing could directly impact on the level of school swimming bookings and therefore the costs to the Council.
2. Regulated pricing allows equal opportunity to all education establishments in Nottingham, if schools were to book independently and the Local Authority does not oversee the market hire, operators' charges would be considerably different from a mileage and timings perspective, as costs would be per individual route (should operators independently govern charges to schools for such smaller bookings).
3. The school swimming service in conjunction with Whynott transport is the national School Swimming Provider of the Year for 2021/2022 due to its unique approach of consolidation as a one stop shop through, bench marking, quality, ease of use and financial accessibility.
4. Should the service be less accessible and coordinated, there is a risk of Children at risk if losing valuable of learning of life skills. The School Swimming Service and Whynott Transport provides a positive service budget.

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Subject:	D2N2 Supported Accommodation Framework		
Directors:	Ailsa Barr - Director for Children’s Integrated Services Katy Ball - Director for Commissioning and Procurement		
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Cheryl Barnard - Children and Young People		
Report author and contact details:	Lisa Lopez, Lead Commissioning Officer lisa.lopez@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 87 62746		
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Steve Oakley, Head of Contracting and Procurement Dionne Screamton, Senior Solicitor		
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reasons:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Income	<input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more
taking account of the overall impact of the decision			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital
Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Type of expenditure:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital		
Total value of the decision: Up to £12,355,200 (up to £1,235,520 per year for up to 10 years)			
Wards affected: All			
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder:			
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:			
Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Healthy and Inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Financial Stability	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Serving People Well	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
<p>Nottingham City Council has a statutory duty under the Children Act 1989 to ensure sufficient accommodation for its Looked After Children and Young People. This may include supporting young people to live independently.</p> <p>Nottingham City Councils current accreditation process for Semi-Independent Accommodation is due to end, and the existing contracts due to expire, in March 2023. This report seeks approval to utilise this opportunity to jointly commission a Supported Accommodation light touch framework contract, across the D2N2 area, which will replace the existing accreditation. Because the contract will be a type of framework, and therefore paid solely based on activity, the costs in this report are indicative and Nottingham City Council will only pay for the services it’s actually commissions.</p> <p>Commissioning the service jointly across the D2N2 area is likely to result in more efficient use of resources – Derby City Council are leading the re-commissioning, which reduces pressure on Nottingham City Council’s resources. This also aligns with the Residential and Foster Carers frameworks, which are jointly commissioned across D2N2.</p>			

Exempt information: None.

Recommendations:

- 1** Approval to procure the provision of Supported Accommodation for Children in Care, as detailed in appendix 1 in partnership with the D2N2 councils, through an appropriate procurement process led by Derby City Council to establish a framework. The approved framework contract(s) would commence on 1st August 2022, for a five-year period with an option to extend for a further two periods of 24 months each, and one period of 12 months (i.e. 5 years +2+2+1), to a maximum of 10 years in total.
- 2** To approve a maximum expenditure of up to £12,355,200 over the entirety of the framework contract terms (up to 10 years) for the provision of Supported Accommodation for Children in Care, as detailed in appendix 1, from the Children's Placement Service budget.
- 3** To delegate authority to the Head of Contracting and Procurement to sign any inter-Local Authority partnership agreement as required to set out the legally binding relationship and inter-dependencies between NCC, Derby City, Derbyshire County and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- 4** To delegate authority to the Head of Children in Care (Regulated Services) to award any call-off contracts in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation number 274(a).

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 To provide high quality, local accommodation for older children in care, aged 16 years and over. Commissioning a light touch framework contract for placements within Nottingham City, in addition to the other existing provision, will ensure the young people who are moving towards living independently will have access to high quality accommodation and support locally.
- 1.2 The current Nottingham City Council accreditation has over 50 providers – this is extremely challenging for our Quality Assurance colleagues to monitor on an ongoing basis. The D2N2 framework will have up to 10 providers for each local authority – this will provide sufficient opportunities to secure placements, whilst keeping the number of providers manageable and thus improving quality. This service will form part of a range of accommodation and support options to meet the differing needs of children in care.
- 1.3 To fulfil Nottingham City Council's statutory duties. Nottingham City Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient accommodation for its Looked After Children. For those young people aged 16 years and above (who have left school), it is often appropriate to provide this accommodation in a semi-independent setting, in order to successfully prepare young people for independent living. Nottingham City Council's accreditation for Supported Accommodation is due to end at the end of March 2022. Where there are no alternatives available, placements are spot-purchased outside of contracts.
- 1.4 A national shortage of available placements means that placements can be spot-purchased wherever they are available. This results in young people being placed outside the city, away from their support networks, and lack of quality assurance of accommodation and support being provided. Commissioning a light touch framework contract for placements within Nottingham City, in addition to the other existing provision, will help to ensure statutory requirements are fulfilled, reduce incidences of spot-purchasing and help keep young people closer to home.

- 1.5 To improve efficiency and value for money. Commissioning the service jointly across the D2N2 area is likely to result in more efficient use of resources – Derby City Council have led development of the service model, and will lead the procurement, which reduces pressure on Nottingham City Council’s resources. There is an existing partnership agreement in place with the other D2N2 authorities, and the proposed Supported Accommodation framework will be added to the scheme of work within that agreement. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, Nottingham City Council needs to re-commission the Supported Accommodation framework in line with the other D2N2 authorities’ timescale.
- 1.6 The average cost of a placement for a young person who is currently in Supported Accommodation is approximately £750-900 per placement per week. With a light touch framework, providers submit their pricing structure within specified parameters, which is then fixed for the duration of the contract unless otherwise agreed. Because the contract is paid on activity i.e. we only pay for the placements we are using, all costs in this report are indicative.
- 1.7 Providers will only be accepted onto the framework for Nottingham City Council within the agreed price banding, which is in line with the current market rates. There may be some small savings from moving to a model with a smaller number of local providers. However, the more significant savings will come from work with families to ensure less children become looked after, and from more of our placements being commissioned via provided internally or via fixed-price contracts, rather than via frameworks, accreditations, and spot-purchasing. This framework will only be used for those young people who could not be placed in our internal services, or one of our fixed-price services (for example, Supported Lodgings, or the Supported Accommodation block contract.)
- 1.8 To manage the market. The shortage of placements has led to increased demand and high placement costs, with providers effectively in control of the market. Many local authorities have sought to keep placements local by withdrawing from larger frameworks – this leads to more work for providers, for the same volume of work, and the costs of this are likely to be passed on to the local authorities. Commissioning this service jointly across the D2N2 area is likely to provide sufficient volume of activity to be appealing to providers, whilst keeping placements local and managing costs.

2. **Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

2.1 **Current position**

Nottingham City Council currently has a range of placement types for children in care, including internal services provided by the local authority, and an increasing portfolio of externally commissioned contracts. There are existing light touch frameworks across the D2N2 area for foster care and residential care, and a Nottingham City accreditation for Supported Accommodation (also known as Semi-Independent Accommodation - where an older young person, aged 16 or over, lives in a flat or shared housing with support available either on site or as floating support, when required.)

In order to secure local placements at acceptable prices, Nottingham City Council has been working to expand its high quality internal provision, and develop a range of options exclusively for City children. These include expanding the existing block contracts for residential care, and developing a new pilot Supported Lodgings scheme and a block contract for Supported

2.4 Key local and national drivers

The Children Act 1989 (and associated guidance and Regulations) sets out the general duty of the local authority looking after a child to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child. The Act provides a framework within which decisions about the most appropriate way to accommodate and maintain the child must be considered.

Where a placement with the child's parent is not possible, the responsible authority should place the child in 'the most appropriate placement available', i.e. the one that they consider will best promote and safeguard the child's welfare. This includes placement 'in accordance with other arrangements made by the local authority', which may include, for example, supporting young people to live independently in rented accommodation, residential employment, or in supported lodgings/hostels.

Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduces corporate parenting principles, which include being safe and having stability - the need to maintain, as far as possible, consistency in the home environment. For some care leavers, this may mean wider support to help navigate the challenges of moving to independence through securing housing options and maintaining relationships with those whose continued support they might want or need during their transition to adulthood.

The Nottingham City Council Plan 2021-23 includes the following strategic priorities for children and young people 'continue to provide the vital statutory services that support and protect vulnerable children, including safeguarding, children in care, those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and other vulnerable groups'.

Nottingham City Council's Children in Care Placements - Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy 2021-23 identifies the need to:

- Support complex and challenging children to remain in family settings, through the development and implementation of interventions which focus on de-escalation from residential care, foster placement support, family re-unification, and edge of care preventative interventions.
- Work with local partners – Authorities and providers – to ensure a flexible and responsive approach to meeting demand for all categories of placement.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 Re-tender for a Nottingham City only Supported Accommodation, as per the current arrangements. The current accreditation was developed to allow a flexible option to purchase placements in and close to Nottingham City. However, the flexible nature of the accreditation has resulted in over 50 providers now being accredited. Nottingham City Council has no children placed with the majority of these providers, but is still required to quality assure them – an enormous undertaking which is not possible for our teams to carry out effectively. Supported Accommodation is currently not subject to national registration, and therefore this presents a risk to the quality of accommodation and support being provided, as well as creating additional work for Nottingham City Council officers. Therefore, this option is not recommended

3.2 Do nothing. The current Supported Accommodation accreditation is due to end at the end of March 2022. Taking no action would result in having no flexible contract arrangement in place, and all placements beyond those in our internal and fixed-price contracts would need to be spot-purchased. This would result in uncontrolled, highly varied pricing and quality, and in young people being placed outside the city, far away from their support networks. This would likely result in poorer outcomes for the young people and significantly increased costs to Nottingham City Council. Therefore, this option is not recommended.

4. Consideration of Risk

4.1 Although there is a lack of available local placements, there are also too many providers on the current accreditation – many of which we don't have placements with. A balance is needed between insufficient placements available and too many providers for us to quality assure. Taking into account the numbers of young people in our internal services, plus the number that will be supported via the fixed-price contracts, it is expected that there will be approx. 15-20 young people in placements through the framework at any one time. Therefore 10 providers able to offer around 4-8 beds each should be sufficient to meet our needs, and allow for expected increases in the next few years.

4.2 An amendment to the Care Planning Placement and Case Review (England) 2010 regulations is taking place by statutory instrument, and new National Standards are being developed. This is expected to come into force during the term of the contract, and is expected to impact on the costs of the service. Once the legislative requirements are known, it is expected that the contract price will need to be reviewed to take into account the additional burden this legislation will place on the provider.

5. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

This proposal seeks to procure the provision of Supported Accommodation for Children in Care, in partnership with the D2N2 councils, through an appropriate procurement process led by Derby City Council to establish a framework. The current process is via a flexible contract with accredited providers, and the proposal is not expected to materially impact costs, however it will improve the efficiency of our quality assurance.

The proposal also seeks to approve spend of up to £1.236m per annum (this equals £12.355m over the maximum framework contract terms of 10 years excluding inflation). These estimates are based on a benchmarking exercise undertaken using costings from our own services and other local authorities to calculate the average cost of higher support and lower support needs:

Support needs	Avg weekly cost per placement	Annual costs placements (Approx.)
Higher support needs – staff on site	£2,560	Up to £0.799m for estimated 6 young people
Lower support needs – staff visit	£600	Up to £0.4368m for estimated 14 young people

Providers will only be accepted onto the framework within the agreed price banding, which is in line with the current market rates and the Council would only pay for the placement costs as and when a placement is required. By using a framework provider on an agreed price banding, this should help to reduce our spot purchases which can be at an increased cost.

The Children in Care service will incur the Supported Accommodation costs, and the estimates of costings provided are affordable within the budgets agreed for 2022/23 onwards. Should the estimated costs change then the financial impact will need to be revised.

There is a risk that inflation has not been included in the above estimates. Monitoring of any agreed increases in future years is essential to ensure that there is no impact to MTFP.

To ensure value for money for the Council, and to achieve saving targets (including Transformation) already committed in the MTFP for 2022/23 onwards, the service should seek to utilise our Internal Provision, Supported Lodgings scheme and Semi-independent Block Contracts before using the Supported Accommodation providers on this framework.

6. Legal colleague comments

The proposals in this report seek to secure the procurement of Supported Accommodation for Children in Care in partnership with other D2N2 councils.

It is proposed that Derby City Council will be the lead and will undertake a compliant tender process to establish a framework of suitable providers. Nottingham City Council and other D2N2 authorities will be named contracting authorities on the framework who will be permitted to call off from it for their requirements.

Expenditure on individual call offs under the framework will be in accordance with the Council's Constitution and scheme of delegation number 274a.

It is understood that there is an inter-Local Authority partnership agreement already in place which sets out the legal relationship between the D2N2 partners. It is anticipated that this agreement will be amended to include the additional Supported Accommodation requirements.

Legal services will support as appropriate with respect to the documentation that is required to be established between the parties.

Dionne Screamton - Senior Solicitor, Contracts and Commercial, 29 March 2022

7. Other relevant comments

7.1 Procurement colleague comments

This decision relates to the commissioning and procurement of Supported Accommodation for Children in Care in partnership with other D2N2 councils and led by Derby City Council. It is proposed that Derby City Council will undertake a compliant procurement process to establish a framework of suitable providers and that Nottingham City Council and other D2N2 authorities will be named as users of the framework for call offs as required. Expenditure on individual call offs under the framework will be in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation 274a. An inter-Local Authority partnership agreement

already in place which sets out the legal relationships between the participating D2N2 partners will be amended to include the Supported Accommodation framework. These proposals are supported from a procurement perspective.

Jo Pettifor - Category Manager, Strategy & People, 24 March 2022

8. **Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

8.1 N/A

9. **Social value considerations**

9.1 Consideration has been given to how the services being commissioned could improve economic, social and environmental well-being in Nottingham. By virtue of the type of services being commissioned, social improvements are expected to be delivered, particularly for the children and young people receiving the services, but also for the wider economic well-being of Nottingham.

9.2 It is anticipated that improved outcomes for Nottingham's Looked After population will be achieved by enabling an increased number of children and young people to remain living locally in high quality care provision.

9.3 There is potential to create increased employment opportunities for local citizens due to residential care provision either being established or expanding in the D2N2 area.

10. **Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

10.1 N/A

11. **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

11.1 Attached as appendix 2, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

12. **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

12.1 Currently being developed, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

13. **Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

13.1 A CIA is not required.

14. **List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

14.1 Nottingham City Council's Children in Care Commissioning Review (Sept. 2020).

15. **Published documents referred to in this report**

15.1 Nottingham City Council's Children in Care Placements - Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy 2021-23.

15.2 Nottingham City JSNA Children in Care (2017).

D2N2 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FRAMEWORK CONTRACT - CHILDREN IN CARE

The table below sets out details of the current and proposed contract arrangements for the D2N2 Supported Accommodation Framework contract:

	Weekly cost per placement	Annual costs placements (Approx.)	Expected total value (Approx.)	Proposed Period of Award	Value for Money
Proposed D2N2 Supported Accommodation Framework	Higher support needs – staff on site Average cost £2,560 per young person per placement	Up to £0.799m for estimated 6 young people	Up to £1.23552m per annum, including support costs Up to £12.3552 over whole life of contract, including support costs	5 years with a +2 +2 +1 option to extend.	<p>It is envisaged that commissioning the new framework contract for semi-independent accommodation will provide value for money as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers will only be accepted onto the framework for Nottingham City Council within the agreed price banding, which is in line with the current market rates. • Commissioning the service jointly across the D2N2 area is likely to result in more efficient use of resources – Derby City Council are leading the re-commissioning, which reduces pressure on Nottingham City Council’s resources. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, Nottingham City Council needs to re-commission the Supported Accommodation framework in line with the other D2N2 authorities’ timescale. • This framework will only be used for those young people who could not be placed in our internal services, or one of our fixed-price services (for example, Supported Lodgings, or the Supported Accommodation block contract.)
	Lower support needs – staff visit Average cost £600 per young person per placement	Up to £0.4368m for estimated 14 young people	(NB: costs exclude inflation)	Maximum 10 years 01/08/2022 to 31/07/2027	

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Equality Impact Assessment Form

[screentip-sectionA](#)

1. Document Control

Control Details:

Title:	D2N2 Supported Accommodation framework contract (Children in Care)
If this is a budget EIA please ensure the title is the same as the title used within the budget booklet	
Author:	Lisa Lopez
Directors:	Helen Watson, Interim Director for Children’s Integrated Services Katy Ball, Director for Commissioning and Procurement
Department:	Strategic Commissioning/Children’s
Service Area:	Looked After Children
Contact details:	lisa.lopez@nottinghamcity.gov.uk ☎ 0115 87 62746
Strategic Budget EIA: Y/N (Does this EIA have an impact on the budget) If yes, please include the reference number	N
Exempt from publication: Y/N (All EIA’s are published on Nottingham Insight for public viewing unless specified. Exemption criteria is available on the EIA section on the Intranet)	N

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2. Document Amendment Record:

Version	Author	Date	Approved
1	Lisa Lopez	08/12/2021	09/12/2021

3. Contributors/Reviewers (Anyone who has contributed to this document will need to be named):

Name	Position	Date
Rosey Donovan	Equality and Employability Consultant	9 th December 2021

4. Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
Looked After Children	Children or young people (aged under 18 years old) in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by the authority for more than 24 hours. This includes unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, children in friends and family placements, and those children placed for adoption but not yet adopted.
D2N2	A partnership of local authorities comprising Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire County, Derby City, and Derbyshire County Councils.
Care Leavers	Young people who are Looked After Children, who are aged 18 and leaving the care system.
Placement	The accommodation/setting where the Looked After Child is placed. This could be with a foster family, in a children’s home (residential home), or another type of placement.
Supported Accommodation	A type of placement which can be provided to older children in care or care leavers, who are making steps towards independence. In Supported Accommodation an older young person, aged 16 or over, lives in a flat or shared housing with support available either on site or as floating support, when required.) This type of accommodation and support is called Semi-Independent Accommodation in some other local authority areas, and the terms are often used interchangeably.
CQC	Care Quality Commission, the independent regulator of health and social care in England. The CQC register care providers; monitor, inspect and rate services; take action to protect people who use services; and speak with an independent voice, publishing our views on major quality issues in health and social care.

JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, a process by which local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups assess the current and future health, care and wellbeing needs of the local community to inform local decision making.
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment

[screeintip-sectionB](#)

5. Summary

(Please provide a brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed)

Nottingham City Council wish to commission a framework contract to provide supported accommodation for young people in care aged 16+, to help them to move towards living more independently, but with support available when required. Through this framework we will provide high quality accommodation for the young people whilst supporting them towards greater independence in a managed way, potentially improving their longer term outcomes around sustaining tenancies, managing budgets and understanding where to go for further support. The framework is to be commissioned across the D2N2 area.

Nottingham City Council currently has a range of placement types for children in care, including internal services provided by the local authority, and externally commissioned contracts. Nottingham City Council’s current accreditation for Semi-Independent Accommodation is due to expire in March 2022. The new jointly commissioned Supported Accommodation framework contract, across the D2N2 area, will replace the current accreditation. Benefits of this model will be –

- Improved quality. The current Nottingham City Council accreditation has over 50 providers – this is very challenging for our Quality Assurance colleagues to monitor on an ongoing basis. The D2N2 framework will have up to 10 providers for each local authority, providing sufficient opportunities to secure placements, whilst keeping the number of providers within the scope of what can be managed by our Quality Assurance colleagues. Thus quality is likely to improve.
- Efficiency and value for money. Commissioning the service jointly across the D2N2 area is likely to result in more efficient use of resources – Derby City Council have led on the re-commissioning, which reduces pressure on Nottingham City Council’s resources. D2N2 commissioning leads have been able to share learning in relation to service development.
- Fulfilment of Nottingham City Council’s statutory duties. Nottingham City Council’s accreditation for Semi-Independent Living Support and Accommodation comes to an end at the end of March. Although there is potential to extend it further, if we want

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to take advantage of joint commissioning opportunities we will need to re-commission now to align with other authorities' timescales.

Please note that there has been significant other work to establish options for different types of accommodation and contracting models. For example, in addition to internally managed Supported Accommodation, Nottingham City Council has a Supported Lodgings pilot scheme, and a Supported Accommodation block contract –



DDM Supported Semi-Independent
Lodgings - FINAL sigAccommodation blo

Young people will be placed in our internal services, or one of the above services, in preference. This framework is being put in place for circumstances where it is not possible to place young people in these services for whatever reason, and will be used only in these circumstances.

screenip-sectionC

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6. Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

(Please include information about how you have consulted/ have data from the impacted groups)

The following information has been used to identify the above proposal:

Service data on the children and young people in externally commissioned placements, which includes age, dates and costs and location of placements (not shared here).

Children in Care Placements Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy 2021-23 (currently being updated)



cic-placements-com
missioning-and-suff

JSNA Looked After Children (2017)



JSNA_CiC_90157
2017.pdf

Children in Care Commissioning Review 2020



CiC Options
presentation 2020 -

As part of a Strategic Commissioning Review, consultation has taken place with a group of care-experienced young people, to identify what is important to them in terms of accommodation and support. Key themes from the young people were –

- The right staff are incredibly important. It's really key that the staff are non-judgmental, empathic, great listeners, and can build relationships with the young people. Consistency and reliability are also very important to young people who have been often let down many times and can be reluctant to give their trust.
- Young people want to be treated appropriately to their age and approaching adulthood, with opportunities to learn and become increasingly independent, but with support available when needed.
- It's important that the accommodation is well-maintained, that the young people are managed to keep it clean, that it is an inviting space to live, and feels 'homely'. Whilst privacy and security were identified as important, so too were communal areas and times to share meals and activities if the young people want to, 'like a family'.
- Whatever the location, it's key that there is good access to facilities such as low cost food, banks, and health services; that transport is easily accessible, and that transport costs to town are minimal.

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7. Impacts and Actions:

screentip-sectionD	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people or carers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy/ Maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Younger</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (e.g. marriage/ civil partnership, <u>looked after children</u> , cohesion/ good relations, vulnerable children/ adults).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please underline the group(s) /issue more adversely affected or which benefits.</i>		

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<p style="text-align: right;"><u>screeentip-sectionE</u></p> <p>How different groups could be affected (Summary of impacts)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>screeentip-sectionF</u></p> <p>Details of actions to mitigate, remove or justify negative impact or increase positive impact (or why action isn't possible)</p>
<p><u>Looked After Children/Younger People</u> This service has the potential to benefit older looked after children aged 16 years plus, and young people leaving care, by providing high quality, local accommodation for older children in care, aged 16 years and over. Commissioning a framework contract with a smaller number of providers will enable Quality Assurance officers to work more closely with these providers, and thus is likely to improve the quality of the service the young people receive.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indicators for measuring and monitoring impact of the service to be developed (January 2022). The EIA will be updated as necessary once measures have been developed. 2. Specification to include indicators for measuring and monitoring impact of pilot scheme. (To be completed by end January 2022.)

3. Suitable providers will be sourced through a fair and transparent tender process, which will be advertised publicly and in accordance with procurement regulations and Nottingham City Council financial regulations.
4. Service to commence April 2022 (subject to implementation timescales – to be agreed with the successful providers).
5. Impact of service to be monitored quarterly during the term of the contract, against the indicators developed in point 1. above. Nottingham City Council will work with the providers to ensure the best outcomes possible are being achieved for the young people using the service. (April 2022 onwards).

8. Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:

The service will be managed via a contract, the duration of which is still to be confirmed. Monitoring requirements built into this contract will include outcomes for the young people. During the term of the contract, it will be monitored against agreed outcomes by Nottingham City Council's Contracting placements team, on a regular basis, (likely to be quarterly but to be agreed). Towards the end of the contract the service will be evaluated to determine impact on outcomes for the young person, and value for money.

9. Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No major change needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adjust the policy/proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse impact but continue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop and remove the policy/proposal

10. Approved by (manager signature) and Date sent to equality team for publishing:

<p>Approving Manager: Sharon Clarke The assessment must be approved by the manager responsible for the service/proposal. Include a contact tel & email to allow citizen/stakeholder feedback on proposals.</p>	<p>Date sent for advice: 07/12/2021 Send document or Link to: equalities@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</p>
<p>Approving Manager Signature:  Page 26</p>	<p>Date of final approval: 07/12/2021</p>

<p>Before you send your EIA to the Equality and Employability Team for advice, have you:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the guidance and good practice EIA's http://intranet.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/1924/simple-guide-to-eia.doc 2. Clearly summarised your proposal/ policy/ service to be assessed. 3. Hyperlinked to the appropriate documents. 4. Written in clear user-friendly language, free from all jargon (spelling out acronyms). 5. Included appropriate data. 6. Consulted the relevant groups or citizens or stated clearly, when this is going to happen. 7. Clearly cross-referenced your impacts with SMART actions.
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PLEASE NOTE: FINAL VERSION MUST BE SENT TO EQUALITIES OTHERWISE RECORDS WILL REMAIN INCOMPLETE.

Subject:	Receipt of DLUHC grant for DVA statutory duty and the commissioning of providers to deliver services		
Corporate Director/ Director:	Frank Jordan – Corporate Director for Resident Services Andrew Errington – Director of Community Protection		
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Neghat Khan		
Report author and contact details:	Louise Graham – VCS Partnerships Manager louise.graham@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 07885 790195		
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Jane Lewis – Community Strategy Safety Manager jane.lewis@nottinghamcity.gov.uk		
Key Decision	X Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in X Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reasons: X Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision			X Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital
Significant impact in two or more wards in the City			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes X No
Type of expenditure:	X Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital	
Total value of the decision: £873,640			
Wards affected: All			
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder:			
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:			
Clean and Connected Communities		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Keeping Nottingham Working		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Carbon Neutral by 2028		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Safer Nottingham		X	
Child-Friendly Nottingham		X	
Healthy and Inclusive		X	
Keeping Nottingham Moving		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Improve the City Centre		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Better Housing		X	
Financial Stability		X	
Serving People Well		X	
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a statutory duty on Tier 1 local authorities as of 1 April 2021.			
The grant will enable Nottingham City Council to fulfil the functions of the statutory duty relating to the provision of support to survivors of domestic violence and abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation and covers revenue expenditure relating to the functions set out in the statutory duty in Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Nottingham City Council has been awarded £873,640.			
Exempt information: None			
Recommendations:			
1 To accept the grant of £873,640 from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to deliver the statutory requirement from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.			
2 To approve funding for the delivery of services as identified in appendix 1.			

3 To delegate authority to the Director of Community Protection to award and sign contracts and variations as outlined in appendix 1.

4 To approve funding from the grant to appoint 1xFTE member of staff to support the implementation of the new statutory duty.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 To enable delivery of the statutory duty as outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 for a one-year period.
- 1.2 To enable the completion of a framework for the commissioning of domestic and sexual violence services in 2022-23 to ensure future compliance.
- 1.3 To enable the continuation of joint commissioning under partnership agreements with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- 1.4 To enable the completion of the review of the CDP Team within NCC and the contributions it receives from Public Health and the OPCC.

2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 2.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced a statutory requirement to Tier 1 local authorities from 1 April 2021. Grants in the form of 'New Burden' funding were provided by DLUHC (formerly MHCLG) to enable Tier 1 authorities to fulfil the functions relating to the provision of support to survivors of domestic violence and abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.
- 2.2 Work has commenced upon a framework to commission delivery of services which will be completed in 2022-23 to ensure future compliance. Domestic and sexual violence services are commissioned jointly under a partnership agreement with the OPCC and the CCG. Nottingham City Council is the Lead Commissioner on behalf of these partners and all are integral to the review.
- 2.3 The Crime and Drugs Partnership (the statutory Community Safety Partnership) is currently under review including its contributions and partnerships with Public Health (PH) and the OPCC which will affect future delivery of these services.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 No other options are being considered as this is a statutory duty. DLUHC have indicated that failure to spend will result in reduction of future awards. NCC's proposed strategy and spend were submitted to DLUHC in August 2021 in line with statutory requirements.

4. Consideration of Risk

4.1 Failure to deliver services as agreed –

DLUHC have indicated that failure to spend will result in reduction of future awards. Continuation of current services will ensure that support for the most vulnerable is provided in a recognised and timely manner.

4.2 Failure to deliver to required timeline –

This could impact on the delivery of services resulting in a gap in provision to some of Nottingham's most vulnerable citizens. Providers are aware of the timeline and are ready to deliver.

5. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

- 5.1 This report seeks approval to accept and spend a Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) statutory grant funding award of £0.874m for use from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.
- 5.2 The grant will enable Nottingham City Council to fulfil the functions of the statutory duty on Tier 1 Local authorities relating to the provision of support to survivors of domestic violence and abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation (as set out in Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021). Detailed allocation of spend against this grant is set out in the appendix 1 within this report.
- 5.3 The Crime and Drugs Partnership is currently under review, including its contributions and partnerships with Public Health and the Office of Police Crime Commissioner which could affect the future ongoing delivery of these services. This will have to be monitored carefully and once these reviews are completed - a review will need to be carried out to ensure that we are still able to meet statutory requirements within existing funding and partnerships.
- 5.4 The Council must ensure all spend is within the terms and conditions of the grant and that no future financial risk is committed to. All spend must be closely monitored ensuring value for money and be managed within the grant allocation amount, ensuring no financial pressures materialise.
- 5.5 The grant funding will be received into the Residents department element of the Crime and Drugs Partnership (CDP).

Susan Turner – Senior Commercial Business Partner 29/03/2022

6. Legal colleague comments

This report seeks approval to accept money from DLUHC for the delivery of the Council's statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The City Council must ensure it complies with any terms and conditions specified by DLUHC for receipt of the funding otherwise it will be at risk of DLUHC invoking clawback. All contracts with the providers identified within the report must include provisions which flow down any relevant provisions from DLUHC such as monitoring and reporting outputs.

The spend associated with the delivery of the services is detailed within appendix 1 including by Contract variations and extensions.

It is understood that the proposed extensions are deemed to be permitted modifications compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (Article 18.99). An exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules has also been provided with respect to the contract award for the safe accommodation service (Article 18.79).

Other contract awards identified in the appendix must be made in accordance with the Council's Constitutional requirements.

It is paramount that these interim arrangements are kept to a minimum and that the tender process for long term commissioning of these services is commenced as soon as practically possible.

Dionne Screaton, Senior Solicitor, 30 March 2022

7. **Other relevant comments**

Procurement

This report relates to the receipt and expenditure of grant funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for the delivery of statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. It proposes a number of contract awards or variations to extend existing contracts (as detailed in Appendix 1) to fulfil the Council's obligations under the statutory duty in a timely way and in accordance with the requirements and conditions of the DLUHC grant funding.

The Procurement Team has been consulted in relation to proposed contract awards and has advised on compliance and best value. The proposed contract extensions outlined in Appendix 1 are considered permissible in accordance with Article 18.99 of the Contract Procedure Rules, and in relation to the proposed award of contract for the delivery of the Safe Accommodation Service, exemption from the procedural requirements of the Contract Procedure Rules has been agreed in accordance with Article 18.79. It is proposed that during 2022-23, a framework of providers will be established to enable the compliant award of contracts to deliver these services from April 2024 onwards.

Jo Pettifor, Category Manager – Strategy & People, 29 March 2022

8. **Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

- 8.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act requires local authorities to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. DVA is a local priority in the Crime and Disorder Plan published by the Crime and Drugs Partnerships on behalf of NCC.

9. **Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

- 9.1 Recommendations have been considered in line with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. All services within this report aim to improve the social wellbeing of the client groups they target.

10. **Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

- 10.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the NHS Constitution when exercising their public health functions under the NHS Act 2006. In making this decision relating to public health functions we have properly considered the NHS Constitution where applicable and have taken into account how it can be applied in order to commission services to improve the health of the local community.

11. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

11.1 An EIA is not required because there are no significant changes to existing services that will impact on delivery. However, the EIA from the introduction of the Statutory Duty has been updated and is included as appendix 2.

12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1 A DPIA is not required because there are no significant changes to existing services that will impact or change the way that data is managed.

13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 A CIA is not required because there are no significant changes to existing services that will impact on the minimal carbon production from delivery.

14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1 Report – Domestic Abuse Statutory Duty Funding and Commissioning Recommendations.

15. Published documents referred to in this report

15.1 Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

15.2 NHS Act 2006.

15.3 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

15.4 Nottingham City Council – Domestic and sexual Violence and Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment 2021.

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Commissioning and Procurement Executive Committee 12 April 2022

Appendix 1 – Receipt of DLUHC grant for DVA Statutory Duty and the commissioning of providers to deliver services

TABLE 1: APPROVAL FOR A CONTRACT VARIATION (Contract award below tender value threshold/Contract procedural rules)

Proposed service to be funded	Name of current contract and provider	Current contract start date, tendered, duration of award, annual and total award	Total value of existing contract	Value and duration of proposed addition – one year	Supporting notes	Recommendations agreed with Legal and Procurement
<p>Children's Worker (£24,500)</p> <p>2 Move-On support costs (£10,080)</p> <p>Flexible Housing Fund (FHF) (£7,664)</p>	<p>Amber house refuge</p> <p>Managed by Metropolitan Thames Valley HA</p>	<p>10th July 2018 Direct Award at CPSC for 9 years starting 1st April 2019 for the refuge service.</p> <p>21st May 2021 Direct Award DDM 4217 for one year. Starting June 2021 for Childrens worker / Move On and FHF</p> <p>19th Oct 2021 DDM DA</p>	<p>155,794 x 9 = 1,402,146</p> <p>59,074</p>	<p>£47,264</p>	<p>CONTRACT VARIATION - To add to the existing contract which has a term of 3+2+2+2 (9 Years) Additional services to meet the statutory duty on Tier 1 local authorities relating to the provision of support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.</p> <p>It is a requirement in the Stat Duty to have Children's Workers in the refuge. The Flexible Housing Fund is used to support survivors to move in and out of refuge more effectively and efficiently. The refuges have all been allocated Move On accommodation through NCH and the additional funding is for support costs</p> <p>£59,074 spend was added 2021/22 via DDM4217 Stat Duty funding 21/22</p>	<p>Permissible extension to contract under 18.99, as permissible variation under Reg 72 No exemption required</p>

Proposed service to be funded	Name of current contract and provider	Current contract start date, tendered, duration of award, annual and total award	Total value of existing contract	Value and duration of proposed addition – one year	Supporting notes	Recommendations agreed with Legal and Procurement
<p>Children's Worker (£31,909)</p> <p>4 Move-On (20,160)</p> <p>Flexible Housing Fund (10,248)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Page 34</p>	<p>Umuada Refuge</p> <p>Managed by Nottingham Community Housing</p>	<p>10th July 2018 Direct Award at CPSC for 9 years starting 1st April 2019 for refuge service</p> <p>21st May 2021 Direct Award DDM 4217 for one year. Starting June 2021 for Childrens worker / Move On and FHF</p>	<p>£159,398 X 9 = £1,434,582</p> <p>£65,348</p>	<p>£62,317</p>	<p>CONTRACT VARIATION - To add to the existing contract which has a term of 3+2+2+2 (9 Years)</p> <p>Additional services to meet the statutory duty on Tier 1 local authorities relating to the provision of support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.</p> <p>It is a requirement in the Stat Duty to have Children's Workers in the refuge</p> <p>The Flexible Housing Fund is used to support survivors to move in and out of refuge more effectively and efficiently</p> <p>The refuges have all been allocated Move On accommodation through NCH and the additional funding is for support costs</p> <p>£65,348 spend in DDM4217. Stat Duty funding 21/22</p>	<p>Permissible extension to contract under 18.99, as permissible variation under Reg 72</p> <p>No exemption required</p>

Proposed service to be funded	Name of current contract and provider	Current contract start date, tendered, duration of award, annual and total award	Total value of existing contract	Value and duration of proposed addition – one year	Supporting notes	Recommendations agreed with Legal and Procurement
Men's Safe Accommodation Outreach worker (44,614) Flexible Housing Fund (0) Page 35	Equation	10 th July 2018 Direct Award at CPSC for 9 years starting 1 st April 2019 21 st May 2021 Direct Award DDM 4217 for one year. Starting June 2021 for Men's Worker 19 th Oct 2021 DDM DA after Expressions of Interest process to accept and spend OPCC bid to Ministry of Justice for 2021/22 pandemic response to increase in criminal justice system. Additional funding may be available in 2022/23 from MOJ to deliver the services for the following year.	£49,000 x 9 = 441,000 £49,614 (including 5K FHF)	£44,614 (without FHF)	CONTRACT VARIATION - This is an additional role within the existing contract to focus on safe accommodation within the Men's Service. £49,614 spend was added via DDM4217 Stat Duty funding 21/22 £34,208 Ministry of Justice 2021/22 £33, 897 Ministry of Justice 2022/23	Permissible extension to contract under 18.99, as permissible variation under Reg 72 No exemption required
LGBT Safe Accommodation Outreach Worker (44,614) Flexible Housing Fund (0)	Equation	21 st May 2021 Direct Award DDM 4217 for one year. Starting June 2021 for LGBT worker	£45,733 (including FHF)	£44,614 (no FHF)	SHORT TERM CONTRACT – Additional services to meet the statutory duty on Tier 1 local authorities relating to the provision of support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation. DDM4217 £44,614 Stat duty funding 21/22	Subject to quotation process inviting three providers to quote via EOI. Agreed to award after this process has been followed

Proposed service to be funded	Name of current contract and provider	Current contract start date, tendered, duration of award, annual and total award	Total value of existing contract	Value and duration of proposed addition – one year	Supporting notes	Recommendations agreed with Legal and Procurement
Therapeutic DVA service for women	Nottingham Womens Centre	21 st May 2021 Direct Award DDM 4217 for one year. Starting June 2021 for therapeutic service	£60,621	£65,621	<p>SHORT TERM CONTRACT - This is a requirement of the new statutory duty and an extension of the existing service currently funded by MHCLG until 31st March 2022.</p> <p>The value has increased in line with the DLUHC allocation and the demand on the service which expanded in June, from its previous MHCLG fund which ended in April 2021.</p> <p>Because we intended to continue to fund the service, they continued to deliver between April and June 2021.</p> <p>I have met to mobilise the service monthly and recognise that the demand is greater than the service.</p> <p>R2C (joint project) Didn't go through EOI due to lack of interest from other potential providers</p>	Subject to quotation process inviting three providers to quote via EOI. Agreed to award after this process has been followed

Proposed service to be funded	Name of current contract and provider	Current contract start date, tendered, duration of award, annual and total award	Total value of existing contract	Value and duration of proposed addition – one year	Supporting notes	Recommendations agreed with Legal and Procurement
Therapeutic service for child survivors of DVA	Imara CIO	<p>21st May 2021 DDM 4217 for one year for therapeutic service</p> <p>Sept 2021 EoI award for one year, starting October 2021</p>	£60,621	£65,621	<p>SHORT TERM CONTRACT - This is a requirement of the new statutory duty as of 1st April 2021.</p> <p>The value has increased in line with the DLUHC allocation and the demand on the service which started 1st Oct 2021.</p> <p>Service mobilised monthly and recognition that the demand is greater than the service.</p>	Subject to quotation process inviting three providers to quote via EOI. Agreed to award after this process has been followed

TABLE 2: APPROVAL FOR A CONTRACT VARIATION (Contract award above tender value threshold– Contract procedural rules)

Proposed service to be funded	Name of current contract and provider	Current contract start date, tendered, duration of award, annual and total award	Total value of existing contract	Value and duration of proposed addition – one year	Supporting notes	Recommendations agreed with Legal and Procurement
<p>Refuge funding for complex needs (4 bed spaces) (60,000)</p> <p>Children’s Worker (£33,000) 3 Move-on (£15,120) accommodation costs Flexible Housing Fund (£7,685)</p>	<p>Central Womens Aid</p>	<p>21st May 2021 Direct Award DDM 4217 for one year. Starting June 2021 for refuge, Childrens worker, Move On and FHF</p> <p>Note: Central is the oldest refuge in Nottingham. It has a different funding source because it is our SMD refuge and was funded by MHCLG not NCC. Refuge space is needed and we have the funding for it. It is proposed it should align with the other refuges.</p>	<p>£112,674</p>	<p>113,884</p>	<p>CONTRACT AWARD – This is the complex needs refuge for survivors with multiple disadvantage as outlined as a requirement in the new Statutory Duty. it is a continuation of an MHCLG funded service ending in March 2021</p> <p>It is a requirement in the Stat Duty to have Children’s Workers in the refuge The Flexible Housing Fund is used to support survivors to move in and out of safe accommodation more effectively and efficiently</p> <p>The refuges have all been allocated Move On accommodation through NCH and the additional funding is for support costs.</p> <p>R2C project (4/6 bed spaces) 112,674 spend from DDM4217 Stat Duty 21/22</p>	<p>Permissible extension to contract under 18.99, as permissible variation under Reg 72 No exemption required</p>

Proposed service to be funded	Name of current contract and provider	Current contract start date, tendered, duration of award, annual and total award	Total value of existing contract	Value and duration of proposed addition – one year	Supporting notes	Recommendations agreed with Legal and Procurement
Children's Worker (£49,860) 3 Move On (£15,120) Flexible Housing Fund (£7,685)	Zola Refuge Juno Womens Aid (formally WAIS)	10 th July 2018 Direct Award at CPSC for 9 years starting 1 st April 2019 21 st May 2021 Direct Award DDM 4217 for one year. Starting June 2021 for Childrens worker / Move On and FHF	£157,295 X 9 = 1,415,655 £84,628	£72,613.89	<p>CONTRACT VARIATION – To add to the existing contract which has a term of 3+2+2+2 (9 Years) Additional services to meet the statutory duty on Tier 1 local authorities relating to the provision of support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation. It is a requirement in the Stat Duty to have Children's Workers in the refuge</p> <p>The Flexible Housing Fund is used to support survivors to move in and out of refuge more effectively and efficiently</p> <p>The refuges have all been allocated Move On accommodation through NCH and the additional funding is for support costs DDM 4217 Stat Duty funding 21/22 £84,628</p>	Permissible extension to contract under 18.99, as permissible variation under Reg 72 No exemption required

TABLE 3: APPROVAL FOR A NEW EXTERNALLY FUNDED POST BASED IN NCC

Service name	Total value of funding	Notes
A new post – DVA Statutory Duty Policy Officer (H Grade) is required to provide support for the implementation of the new statutory duty as of 1 st April 2021.	£48,911	DLUHC funding for Salary plus on-costs. The post was delayed for the Strategy to be completed as that will form the basis of their workload.
Pilot Project – Expression of Interest to Standing Together for WHA	25,000	Match fund a post at Housing Aid to deliver the Whole Housing Approach signed off in the DA Strategy

TABLE 4: PUBLIC HEALTH OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND**Relevant Criteria for fund**

- targeted interventions for specific sections of the local community and workplaces
- harnessing capacity within local sectors – for example, voluntary, academic, commercial
- community-based support for those disproportionately impacted such as the BAME population
- providing support, as needed, to vulnerable people classed as clinically extremely vulnerable

This bid to the fund is to support and enable sufficient staff to ensure women survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse are able to access timely information to self-isolate and seek help.

The male DVA service has been reviews, but they are not experiencing the same funding pressures at this time.

DSVA reporting has hugely increased during Covid, national government recognising the increase has provided some short term funding for staff.

However, to ensure a well-trained, skilled and capable workforce that can keep women and children safe Juno WA have identified a range of required training which is not funded. As Nottingham City Council includes quality assurance in our contract with Juno Women’s Aid, we are aware that there has been a sudden increase in recruitment in Juno, Nottingham Women’s Centre (who deliver our DVA therapeutic service) and Central the independent refuge. These services are all struggling to fund the training requirements for their new starters and for staff recruited during the pandemic.

All DSVA services UK wide are struggling to recruit skilled and experienced staff and locally recruitment has focussed on new staff with the right values, attitudes and transferrable skills. This training programme will ensure the staff have the right knowledge and skills to provide a service for this vulnerable cohort of citizens.

Service	Project	Funding
Central Womens Aid	Training for staff	£1559
Juno Womens Aid	Training on a range of topics, including train the trainer. High turnover of staff during the pandemic	£45,879

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Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment DVA Statutory Duty

1. Document Control Equalities@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Control Details:

Title: If this is a budget EIA please ensure the title is the same as the title used within the budget booklet	Statutory Duty for Accommodation based Domestic Abuse services
Author:	Jane Lewis
Director:	Andrew Errington
Department:	Community Protection
Service Area:	Community Safety
Contact details:	Jane.lewis@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Strategic Budget EIA: Y/N (Does this EIA have an impact on the budget) If yes, please include the reference number	Yes (DLUHC award £873,640)
Exempt from publication: Y/N (All EIA's are published on Nottingham Insight for public viewing unless specified. Exemption criteria is available on the EIA section on the Intranet)	N

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2. Document Amendment Record:

Version	Author	Date	Approved
1	Jane Lewis	16 th February 2022	

3. Contributors/Reviewers (Anyone who has contributed to this document will need to be named):

Name	Position	Date
Rosey Donovan	Equality and Employability Consultant	29/04/2021

4. Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
DVA	Domestic Violence and Abuse
DSVA	Domestic Sexual Violence and Abuse
CDP	Crime and Drugs Partnership
Survivors	This term is commonly used to describe a person who is experiencing domestic or sexual violence/abuse. The term is used as a replacement of “victim”, as it is considered to be best practice as it empowers the survivor. The term “Victim” may be used in criminal justice processes.
Move On accommodation	Defined as Safe Accom in the new Statutory Duty, it is specialist supported accommodation for survivors of DVA who are ready to move on from refuge, but who have not yet been allocated permanent accommodation.
Refuge	Defined as Safe Accom in the new Statutory Duty, it is specialist supported accommodation for survivors of DVA.
Bed space	A unit of accommodation in Refuge and Move on accommodation, it is defined as a family room to be shared by the survivor and children in refuge or a house in Move On.
BAMC	Black, Asian and minoritised communities
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
NCC	Nottingham City Council
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

5. Summary

(Please provide a brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed)

The Domestic Abuse Act became legislation in April 2021 & includes a Statutory Duty for Local Authorities to commission Domestic Abuse services (accommodation based). DLUHC has allocated Nottingham City Council with £873,640 to fund DVA services for one year. The allocation for 2022 was based on the spend of this allocation in 2021.

DSVA services are commissioned by the Crime and Drugs Partnership on behalf of commissioning partners through a formal Partnership Agreement between Nottingham City Council (including Public Health), Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Clinical Commissioning Group. The partnership function is delivered by the DSVA Joint Commissioning Group which makes recommendations to the CDP Board and to the City Council Commissioning and Procurement Subcommittee as required.

The contracts to deliver the Statutory Duty will be initially for one year, as that is the funding allocation by DLUHC. Other elements of the new Statutory Duty include an annual Needs Assessment and Survivor Engagement, these were submitted to DLUHC in Oct 2021 and support decision making on the funding allocation.

The findings and recommendations from this EIA will be used to determine the equality requirements of the service specification, and any additional considerations for the procurement process.

6. Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

(Please include information about how you have consulted/ have data from the impacted groups)

We employed a DVA specialist consultant to gather local data and to consult with the DVA sector and Housing partners as part of the preparation for the Statutory Duty. Our commissioned services collect data on protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and this has been considered as part of our proposals.

7. Impacts and Actions:

	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trans	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people or carers.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy/ Maternity	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Younger	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (e.g. marriage/ civil partnership, looked after children, cohesion/ good relations, vulnerable children/ adults). Survivors of DVA with multiple disadvantage and complex needs (mental health, substance misuse)	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please underline the group(s) /issue more adversely affected or which benefits.</i>		

<p>How different groups could be affected (Summary of impacts)</p>	<p>Details of actions to mitigate, remove or justify negative impact or increase positive impact (or why action isn't possible)</p>
<p>Provide details for impacts / benefits on people in different protected groups.</p> <p>Children and Young People in Refuge and Move On accommodation.</p> <p>Children and young people will be identified as survivors of DVA in their own right for the first time in the Statutory Duty and it is recognised that a specialist role as part of the refuge team is critical to supporting children and young people effectively.</p> <p>Children are a large group of service users in refuge and Move On and Nottingham has been unable to commission service for children since 2017 when the funding source ended.</p> <p>The CDP flexed its funding to enable refuges to utilise budgets for Children's Workers, but that has put pressure on support worker roles for women. Some refuges fundraised through charities and trusts, however as these funders recognise the role of the Statutory Duty in funding services for Children, these funding sources have ended.</p> <p>A specialist DVA therapeutic service for children will be provided for those children and young people in refuge and Move On accommodation. This service is an expectation in</p>	<p>The role of children's worker will be included in the refuge service specification, the service will be monitored and evaluated as part of quarterly reporting and service reviews.</p> <p>The role will work with all children in refuge 0 – 16</p> <p>.</p> <p>This specialist therapeutic service for children and young people will have a service specification and will be monitored</p>

the Statutory Duty. This was previously delivered by Family Care, a charity which closed due to funding issues.

Services have identified a subsequent gap in provision for children in Refuge and Move On. The service will support children to come to terms with the impact of DVA on them and the relationship with their mother. It will improve engagement and behaviour in education and with other adults and children

The Statutory Duty defines services to women in Refuge and Move On accommodation.

Nottingham has mainstream funding and contracts with 3 refuges and annual MHCLG funding and a contract with one additional refuge.

The Statutory Duty identifies which groups may face barriers to services and this includes Black, Asian and minorities communities. These citizens are supported through a specialist refuge.

The Duty also identified those survivors with multiple disadvantage who refuges find difficult to support. We have contracted with a specialist refuge for this group of survivors, but it is dependent on MHCLG funding.

One refuge has space for physically disabled survivors, but all refuges are expected to accommodate survivors with a disability or impairment and enable carers to attend where appropriate where they are able to. All refuges have reviewed access including for children in partnership with experts in NCC.

and evaluated as part of quarterly monitoring and service reviews.

The service will work with all children and young people referred by the DVA services.

Nottingham has 31 commissioned bed spaces and 4 additional bed spaces for survivors with multiple disadvantage.

Nottingham has 12 units of Move On Accommodation, with a number associated with each refuge, so that survivors from BAMC and multiple disadvantage are able to benefit from the Move On accommodation alongside other survivors.

The MHCLG funding allocation will be utilised to fund the additional 4 bed spaces for survivors with multiple disadvantage and also support costs to deliver services to survivors in Move On accommodation.

These services will be included in the service specifications for the refuges and monitored quarterly, including with service reviews.

The funding will also support Move On accommodation, which has been allocated to each refuge and provides an opportunity for women ready to leave the refuge, but not able to access permanent accommodation yet.

Funding is also allocated for a Flexible Housing Fund, this can be utilised by the refuges to ensure that Women with No Recourse to Public Funds are funded whilst funding is being

The intention under the new Stat Duty is to provide safe accommodation outreach support for the following, women from Black, Asian and minoritised communities and those with No Recourse to Public Funds, survivors from Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Plus communities, Male survivors, disabled survivors and survivors with multiple disadvantage. This approach is an increase in targeted support to survivors of DVA.

sought from Social Care or the national fund for this purpose. It will also ensure that women with specific needs have access to a budget whilst they settle into the refuge.

As part of the Needs Assessment work is being undertaken with specialist and statutory partners across Nottinghamshire to consider the needs of male survivors for safe accommodation. Currently our offer in Nottingham is through the Sanctuary Scheme, which also focusses on survivors with adapted properties and hostel spaces for male survivors, including men who identify as trans.

Juno Women's Aid are set up for trans women and further work is required for survivors who identify as non-binary and who are not comfortable referred to womens services.

This focus on outreach for groups identified as part of the initial scoping as requiring additional support will be reviewed during the year to ensure that we reduce any failure to engage these groups. We particularly know LGBT communities do not access services in the numbers we would expect for the population.

The roles will have 3 key aims, to reach into communities who may not have accessed DVA services and to build confidence that services are accessible. The role will also work with the Survivor Engagement lead to ensure services are meeting the needs of survivors who may not have accessed support or to identify gaps in provision. Finally the role will provide safe accom support to those survivors from groups identified during outreach.

<p>Therapeutic Support to survivors</p> <p>Survivor Engagement and Peer Support role</p> <p>Page 50</p>	<p>A Safe Accom outreach service will also be based in Housing Aid to support the service to successfully respond to and offer support, advice and services to survivors who may previously have not accessed support successfully at Housing Aid. .</p> <p>We intend to build on the work with survivors with multiple disadvantage where it is clear that therapeutic support enables survivors to be supported in a trauma informed space and recover more effectively from DVA. The intention is to extend this service for one year and review it for female survivors and to work with partners across Nottinghamshire on the needs of male survivors,</p> <p>This role has 2 key areas of focus The role will work with all survivors and support services to help deliver the survivor voice throughout commissioning and service delivery Support the development of Peer Support services, building on the Freedom Programmes and other emerging Peer Support groups and ensure best practice and safeguarding is adhered to, to reduce the risk to survivors post service and encourage the development of 'Space for Action'.</p>
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8. Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service:

Commissioned Services collect Protected Characteristics Data (Equalities Act 2010) as part of their contracts and this is reported through quarterly monitoring and service reviews. Going forward it will also be collected and analysed as part of an annual Needs Assessment which is part of the new Statutory Duty.

9. Outcome(s) of equality impact assessment:

Proposed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	No major change needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adjust the policy/proposal
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse impact but continue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop and remove the policy/proposal

10. Approved by (manager signature) and Date sent to equality team for publishing:

<p>Approving Manager: The assessment must be approved by the manager responsible for the service/proposal. Include a contact tel & email to allow citizen/stakeholder feedback on proposals.</p>	<p>Date sent for advice: Send document or Link to: equalities@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</p>
<p>Approving Manager Signature: Hannah Stovin</p>	<p>Date of final approval:</p>

Before you send your EIA to the Equality and Employability Team for advice, have you:

1. Read the guidance and good practice EIA's
<http://intranet.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/1924/simple-guide-to-eia.doc>
2. Clearly summarised your proposal/ policy/ service to be assessed.
3. Hyperlinked to the appropriate documents.
4. Written in clear user-friendly language, free from all jargon (spelling out acronyms).
5. Included appropriate data.
6. Consulted the relevant groups or citizens or stated clearly, when this is going to happen.
7. Clearly cross-referenced your impacts with SMART actions.

PLEASE NOTE: FINAL VERSION MUST BE SENT TO EQUALITIES OTHERWISE RECORDS WILL REMAIN INCOMPLETE.

Subject:	Approval for acceptance of grant monies and delegated spending authority for refugee resettlement schemes		
Corporate Director/ Director:	Frank Jordan, Corporate Director for Resident Services Andrew Errington		
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Neghat Khan		
Report author and contact details:	Shaun.Miles@nottinghamcity.gov.uk		
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Amy Goulden, Mandy Pride, Jo Pettifor Susan Turner, Dionne Screamon		
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reasons: <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital
Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Type of expenditure:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital		
Total value of the decision: £7,000,000			
Wards affected: Citywide			
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder: 25.01.22			
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:			
Clean and Connected Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Healthy and Inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Financial Stability	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Serving People Well	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
<p>Since 2015, refugee resettlement work has been carried out successfully, in partnership with registered charities Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum (NNRF) and Enable, on the basis of grant awards and Service Level Agreements (SLAs).</p> <p>As services provided to qualifying residents by these partners have grown in scope, and their specification has matured and settled, there is now a need to shift these to a service contract footing to capture the Council's specific requirements and undertake a full procurement process.</p> <p>As of 2020, previous resettlement schemes (Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme – VPRS/VCRS) have wound down, and new schemes, including United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) have been established.</p> <p>A report on this matter was brought to the 14 December Committee – requesting authority to participate and draw down the grant monies for refugees resettled into the partnership to 22-23 (with funding until 2025-26). This detailed and obtained approval for the urgent work underway to commission new resettlement Casework and ESOL services for the client group.</p>			

However due to the absence of the presenting Officer at the meeting Councillors were not able to obtain answer questions, and two recommendations were not approved.

This report returns those two recommendations around grant funded ad-hoc spend and delegated approval and further seeks governance approval for the drawdown of relevant grant monies up to £7,000,000 to for refugees resettled in the partnership between 2023-2026 and their legacy funding (5 years' maximum to 2031). This lines up the governance, and funding with the contracts and Home Office way of working.

Exempt information: None

Recommendations:

- 1 To approve extension of participation in refugee resettlement schemes to end financial year 2030-31, meaning new arrivals will come until end of financial year 2025-26 with a five-year funding taper.
- 2 To authorise acceptance and drawdown of relevant grant monies.
- 3 To approve continuation of Accountable Body duties in support of neighbouring first-tier authorities to deliver resettlement.
- 4 To grant delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Resident Services to approve the outcome of the tender processes commenced following previous approvals (14/12/2021) for both the Casework contract (valued at up to £2.5million over 5 years) and the ESOL contract (up to £600,000 over the 5 years), and to sign and award contracts.
- 5 To grant delegation to the Corporate Director for Resident Services to recruit 2 additional fixed term staff associated with this project in order to improve the service, governance and contractual arrangements.
- 6 To approve delegation of spending authority on other required services within NCC, County, District partners and externally with the voluntary sector and local businesses and landlords, in accordance with delegated scheme of authority, subject to compliance with Home Office Funding Instructions and Nottingham City Council's constitutional requirements, up to the end of financial year 2030-31.

1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 The Resettlement programme is fully Home Office funded – staff time and redundancy costs are factored into this.
- 1.2 This work is also in accordance with Strategic Council Plan 2021-23 Key Outcome One: “To be a city that welcomes those in need of refuge or shelter”.
- 1.3 It should also be noted that central Government funding instructions are frequently changing in parameters and timescales, and are often issued after implementation has begun. UKRS funding instructions were issued in April 2021, while ARAP and ACRS funding instructions were substantially altered and reissued in August 2021 and January 2022.
- 1.4 The three schemes are now aligned in funding amount and confirmed to run for 5 years with a 3-5 year funding taper in place, so it is prudent to seek governance for the five years at this stage providing the opportunity to ensure

commissioning, staffing and service delivery are planned over the timeframe of the schemes.

- 1.5 Allowing 5 years of funding flows into NCC will enable the contracts (as described in Dec 2021 report) and staffing in the programme to be on a secure footing.
- 1.6 In addition to the current 2.3 staff permanent staff currently on this project there is the intention to recruit two fixed term posts focused on the contracts and governance side of the work specifically. This will ensure compliance with NCC's new working models and to secure efficiencies with aligned contracts/ grants.
- 1.7 Taking a five-year view enables the city to improve governance for the projects and set out improved commissioning and grant aid processes rather than responding to crisis with each new policy announcement.
- 1.8 These schemes provide for UNHCR recognised refugees, they are comprehensive in providing housing and education, advice to employment and benefits, integration and English language support.
- 1.9 Improved longevity in this funding enables supporting departments such as the Adaptations Agency, Education and CAMHS to secure additional resource for this cohort, freeing up and adding capacity in the system.

2. **Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 2.1 In 2015, Nottingham City Council, Gedling Borough Council, and Broxtowe Borough Council committed to play their part in resettlement of 20,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees in the UK by 2020. Community Partnerships led on delivery of this project in partnership with these first-tier authorities, and took a management fee from partner Councils grant funding to do so.
- 2.2 In 2016, these arrangements were extended to include Rushcliffe Borough and Newark & Sherwood District Councils. Community Partnerships coordinates resettlement activity across these five local authority areas and liaises with Nottinghamshire County Council around second-tier services in these localities.
- 2.3 VPRS, VCRS and UKRS are five-year migration schemes, with funding provided in a tapering arrangement across the qualifying period.
- 2.4 Over 300 individuals were resettled under VPRS/VCRS, with the last arrivals in March 2020. Funding for these arrivals will therefore continue until FY24-25.
- 2.5 Arrivals under all resettlement schemes were suspended under COVID-19 mitigations, and remain unpredictable. As funding is awarded on a per capita tariff basis, this means that anticipated budget resilience was substantially impacted over the course of 2020.
- 2.6 Over the lifespan of resettlement, Community Partnerships have engaged in a number of evaluation, learning and evaluation exercises with stakeholders at all levels of the resettlement service, in order to assess effectiveness of delivery.

- 2.7 Work to support refugees in the city under resettlement also creates capacity which can support asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants by generating capacity in the voluntary sector.
- 2.8 Ensuring full capacity in this team makes best use of the 8% charge to the district councils participating in the partnership, and with a further 5-year commitment to the projects the money previously set aside for project end costs (redundancy and partner close down at £240,000) can be spent on improving the project and service offer.
- 2.9 This request for permission to participate and draw down this funding does not commit the partnership NCC leads to taking in the maximum number of refugees outlined here (70 people per year) and it will continue to be subject to review alongside the pressures place on our services by Home Office dispersal and other no-choice unfunded projects.
- 2.10 Previous authority for past year's income and the income in 22-23 leaves approximately £1.2million (changes daily dependant on caseloads) which added to this request generates a maximum budget of £8.2million over 9 years. Much of the spend is focused in the first two years where costs on set up and early integration are highest as is the income. Target budgets for these arrival years are higher, quickly tapering in line with the grant if no further approval to bring in more refugees is granted.
- 2.11 Indicative outline of spend major areas for illustration:

	Indicative spend area	Cost per year
Contracts	Casework	£300k- £500k per year to 2026
	ESOL	£100k per year to 2026
Housing Set up	bring private rented stock up to standard and furnish	£200k per year to 2026
Core staff team	in Community Partnerships	£170k 22-25 reduce after
Remaining spend area	Internal Council recharges, Education, CAMHS, Adaptations, Children's Services, Transport and School Transport, integration events, small grants for training and social support.	Vary depending on cases and available budget.

3. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 3.1 Decline to participate in schemes – this may result in capacity reduction or closure of key voluntary services, which would displace support needs back to Nottingham City Council, without additional resources.
- 3.2 Continue to seek year on year approval to bring in refugees through resettlement schemes – this is a time consuming process which would reduce stability for staff and service users.

4. **Consideration of Risk**

- 4.1 Without authorisation for the delegation of funding it is not possible to organise housing, transport or other support services for the cohort.
- 4.2 The authorisation to continue this work over five years will enable senior managers to ensure adequate staffing and service delivery to meet the needs of the client group and meet improved governance and spending oversights in place at NCC now.
- 4.3 The money remains ring-fenced to meeting the needs of those resettled but is designed to be at no-cost to NCC. Ensuring the process is embedded and the staff team at full strength ensures full draw down of funds owed and that other teams in NCC are reimbursed for work with this client group.

5. **Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)**

This report seeks approval to the participation in refugee resettlement schemes up to FY30-31, which are all funded by the Home Office. Also, the approval for spend on services as required as a part of this process to be granted to the Community Protection Director. This would facilitate the required expenditure to meet the requirements of the schemes which are expected to be no more than £7m in totality at this time for their duration. The amount of funding received is directly tied to the number of refugees being supported by the scheme and tapers over its lifetime.

A risk is that the funding is variable and could therefore be reduced depending on how many actual refugees are resettled within the region.

The current schemes include:

1. United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS);

The UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) funding is for a 5 year (60 month) period dependant on arrival of the refugees and is a consolidation of 3 previous government schemes:

- Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme;
- Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme;
- Gateway Protection Programme;

2. Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP);

3. Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

Funding arrangements are grant-based, intending to ensure resettling families is cost-neutral for local authorities for at least the first year, and are ringfenced to resettlement activity.

NCC retains 8% of all partner authority grant funds as a management fee, used in part to ensure that end of project costs are covered from within existing budget and resources. Supporting other local authorities also enables NCC to have greater economies of scale when purchasing for the scheme.

To ensure a cost neutral position and avoid any unfunded pressure during the period of project, the budget manager will need to ensure all expenditure incurred is fully covered by the grant, as there is no budget to cover unfunded costs. The budget manager will also need to put in place the appropriate monitoring and reporting processes to ensure adherence to the grant conditions including end dates / renewals, in order to avoid possible clawback of grant funding or request additional funding if applicable.

Also, to ensure that all internal processes that are required in relation to meeting the requirements of the scheme are fully complied with.

A longer approval window will allow a more seamless and consistent approach to be maintained across the duration of the schemes. This includes the outsourcing of services with strict controls and agreements in partnership with Procurement to ensure value for money and effective use of available resources. Due to the possibility of changing terms/terminations/extensions these schemes must be strictly monitored and in the case of early termination of the schemes a full mitigation plan must be in place and all costs met within the MTFP.

Advice provided by Susan Turner, Senior Commercial Business Partner
16/02/2022

6. **Legal colleague comments**

- 6.1 The Council may receive the funding and act as the Accountable Body under the powers granted to it under s.1 Localism Act 2011. Any management of the fund, including distributions must at all times be in accordance with any funding obligations from Central Government.
- 6.2 The terms of any funding from government will need to be reviewed and the Council must ensure it uses the money in accordance with those terms to avoid the risk of claw back.
- 6.3 A tender process will be undertaken in order to identify a provider for the services ensuring compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and providing best value. Legal support will be provided as part of the procurement and contracting arrangements.
- 6.4 Any external spend with third parties outside of the tendered contract will need to be made in accordance with the delegation approved under this report, and in line with the Council's Constitutional requirements. A process for seeking appropriate advice and assessing the requirements should be established and suitable agreements will need to be put in place prior to funding being allocated.

Dionne Screamon, Senior Solicitor, Commercial Employment and Education 15
March 2022

7. **Other relevant comments**

Procurement

- 7.1 This report relates to the continuation of Nottingham City Council's participation in the Home Office funded refugee resettlement schemes to the

end of FY30-31, and the receipt and expenditure of associated Home Office grant funding for the provision of services for this period. It was previously determined that the external provision of refugee resettlement and ESOL services should be procured as services contracts, and following the previous approval to a procurement process being undertaken, a commissioning and procurement process is now in progress to secure ongoing provision.

- 7.2 The expenditure of all other funds under this programme must be in accordance with requirements of the UK Public Contracts Regulations and the Council's Constitution and Contract Procedure Rules, to ensure compliance and best value. In relation to any expenditure with external agencies, the Procurement Team will advise and support as required in each instance. The Council should have in place an appropriate structure and resources to enable a robust, compliant process to be followed for the allocation of funding externally, and to manage this funding through appropriate contracts or grant agreements to ensure continued performance and best value.

Jo Pettifor, Category Manager, Strategy and People, 8 March 2022

8. **Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

- 8.1 As a vulnerable cohort, refugees are at risk of ASB, Hate Crime etc. Early intervention around harm prevention is the first priority and we work with each intake to deliver key message around Hate Crime and ASB. Community Partnerships work with Community Protection (CP) Intelligence Analysts to ensure that such matters are registered for consideration in the Tasking and Tensions Monitoring processes. In partnership with other CP teams and Notts Police, we provide intensive support with these matters.

9. **Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

- 9.1 VPRS was expanded in 2015 with the goal of providing an alternate means to reach safety without making dangerous sea crossings. Therefore, social value is created by providing a legal route to safety for vulnerable families. The funding arrangement provides us with the opportunity to build and empower smooth integration for these families, removing barriers to greater cultural integration.
- 9.2 Greater than 50% of our resettled cohort are aged 18 or below. Young people within the cohort adapt to their new cultural context much more rapidly than older generations. Therefore, families now view Nottingham as their permanent home, because their children are becoming settled and making progress here.
- 9.3 We have shifted our focus in delivery from use of social housing to private rented sector (PRS) stock. In the interim, the Council has introduced Selective Licensing with the intention of improving PRS stock in Nottingham. By working with private landlords to create compliant, affordable and sustainable PRS housing for refugees, we have made a material contribution to this strategic objective.

10. **Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

- 10.1 N/A

11. **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

11.1 An EIA is not required because there are no significant changes to policies or practices. Overlapping impacts on domestic abuse, hate crime, issues impacting new communities and other priorities are currently managed within the Directorate.

12. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

12.1 DPIA will be ongoing and due regard will be given to any implications identified.

13. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

13.1 A CIA is not required because the work is person-centred and does not impact on CN28 plans. Additionally, all resettled households are referred by prior arrangement for an audit by Nottingham Energy Partnership which improves energy efficiency.

14. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

14.1 None.

15. Published documents referred to in this report

15.1 [Afghan relocation and assistance: funding instruction - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

15.2 [UK resettlement programmes: funding instruction 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Subject:	New 3-year merchant acquirer contract		
Corporate Director:	Clive Heaphy – Corporate Director of Finance and Resources		
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Sam Webster		
Report author and contact details:	Tracy Martin - Team Leader, Transactional Accounting Tracy.Martin@nottinghamcity.gov.uk		
Other colleagues who have provided input:	Lydia Mpofu – Analyst, Transactional Accounting lydia.mpofu@nottinghamcity.gov.uk		
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Subject to call-in	No
Reasons:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital	
Significant impact in two or more wards in the City		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Type of expenditure:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital		
Total value of the decision: £891,000 (estimated over 3 year contract)			
Wards affected: All			
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder: 23/03/2022			
Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:			
Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Healthy and Inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Financial Stability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Serving People Well	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
This is a core contract that enables NCC to accept debit and credit cards payment for a range of income generating services.			
Exempt information: None			
Recommendation:			
1 To enter into a new Merchant acquirer contract with Cardnet under an existing framework CPRAS, estimated value of £891,000 over a period of 3 years.			

1. Reasons for recommendation

Our current contract is due to expire in August 2022. The existing arrangements with Cardnet have been in place since 2015; the contract was awarded in line with the bank contract as Cardnet is part of the Lloyds group.

The option to undertake a full tender has been disregarded for the following reasons:

- There are a small number of providers of merchant acquirer services for an organisation of this size and scale. There is no guarantee a full tender would

generate a saving to the council; current accessible benchmarking data indicates that NCC are not overpaying for this service.

- A change of merchant acquirer includes a hardware and software change to 53+ establishments and significant software configuration to link this new hardware to our cash management system which would require project managing. This will result in revision of bank paperwork, termination of card terminal lease arrangements, changes to cash management rules and potentially changes to business process depending on the service offer. This will all need testing thoroughly to ensure functionality is in place prior to the go live date.
- If the merchant acquirer was to change this would trigger a new award for replacement card machines at the 53 establishments.
- The specialist resource required to support this project is already fully utilised supporting other core functions and projects such as: end of year closedown in Fusion, transfer of EnviroEnergy into NCC and an essential cash management system upgrade during 22/23.

2. **Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

This contract provides debit and credit card processing solutions for 53+ establishments across the City, including: The Theatre Royal, Bean Culture, leisure centres and library services. The existing contract ends August 2022. A review of this contract has been necessary to determine how we award contract beyond this date.

The contract has an estimated cost of £891,000 over 3 years and this includes estimated price increase fee changes coming in April 2022 as a direct result of price increases passed on from VISA and MasterCard. The Cardnet contract costs are fully rechargeable to services that receive debit and credit card income and this is then passed on to relevant services as part of the recharge process.

3. **Other options considered in making recommendations**

The option of undertaking a full tender has been considered but disregarded because this does not appear to offer NCC material cashable savings. Awarding this contract to an alternative provider would result in changes to card reader hardware and software at 53+ establishments and software changes to the Council's cash management system, which are not realistically deliverable by September 2022.

Benchmarking

Benchmarking data from an alternative provider indicates that NCC pays a lower transaction processing fee for its merchant acquirer services with Cardnet. In addition, contract management arrangements with Cardnet are very effective, minimising the resources required to support this contract operationally. There is also implementation cost to change to an alternative provider to consider and therefore a full tender process is not expected to deliver material cashable savings to the Council.

This leaves the option of awarding a contract to the existing merchant acquirer Cardnet under the CPRAS framework.

4. **Consideration of Risk**

A merchant acquirer transfer by August 2022 is deemed to have significantly high risk of failure and delay, which would impact the Council's ability to process card payments for

53+ establishments until this would be resolved. To give an indication of size and scale, this contract processes approx. £44m of council income per annum, including Theatre Royal income.

Cardnet is owned by Lloyds Bank, the Council's service provider. This overall arrangement has been very successful since 2015 with no concerns over operational service delivery

5. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)

This decision seeks approval to enter into a new merchant acquirer contract with Cardnet. The value of the decision is up to £0.891k over a 3-year period which equates to £0.297m annually.

The funding of this contract will be met via existing MTFP budgets across those areas that generate income and use the service. Due to this this decision is deemed affordable and there is no expectation of any financial pressure. Each individual service area using this contract should monitor their spend and ensure they come in within their allocated budget provision for this contract.

The contract will be awarded to the existing supplier for reasons outlined in the report and will be done so via a compliant procurement framework – CPRAS. This will ensure the service is fit for purpose and value for money is obtained.

Phil Gretton – Strategic Finance Business Partner 14/03/2022

6. Legal colleague comments

This report is seeking authority to award a 3-year contract for merchant acquirer services. It is proposed that the contract is awarded via a compliant framework. Legal Services, as at the date of these comments, has not been asked to review any of the framework/call-off terms and conditions – it is not therefore possible to advise as to the suitability of the terms at this stage.

Legal Services will provide support in this regard if requested. Procurement colleagues have confirmed that the framework provides a compliant means of award. The decision makers need to be satisfied that Best Value is being demonstrated in making an award of contract without going out to the open market. The report author has set out the anticipated benefits to the Council by awarding through the framework.

Naomi Vass – Team Leader, Contracts and Commercial 17/3/22

7. Other relevant comments

Procurement

Procurement Team have been working with Finance to ensure their new Merchant Acquirer contract is procured compliantly and offers best value. Finance have carried out benchmarking against another provider of merchant acquirer services.

At this time, using the CPRAS framework to enter into a contract with Cardnet, the incumbent provider, is compliant and in keeping with the Regulations and CPRs, the most economically advantageous and least resource intensive during a time of change.

Therefore, I have no procurement concerns about this process however, I would recommend carrying out a full tender exercise before the expiry of the new contract.

Louise Dobson - Lead Procurement Officer 11/03/2022

8. Other relevant comments

I am happy to approve this report.

Lisa Kitto - Deputy s151 Officer and Finance Strategic Lead, Resources

9. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

9.1 N/A

10. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

10.1 N/A

11. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

11.1 N/A

12. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

An EIA is not required because the decision does not relate to new or changing policies, services or functions.

13. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

A DPIA is not required because the decision does not relate to new or changing policies, services or functions.

14. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

A CIA is not required because the decision does not relate to new or changing policies, services or functions.

15. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)

None.

16. Published documents referred to in this report

None.

**Commissioning & Procurement Executive Committee
Work Plan 2022/23**

Meeting date / Report title	KD (Y/N)	Portfolio Holder	Public / part or fully exempt?	Contact Officer / department
<u>10 May (publish 28-day notice on 11/04/22)</u>				
Sports and Leisure kit replacement – key decision	Yes		Public	Kara Gokova, F&R
Overnight short breaks for disabled children with complex health needs – key decision	Yes	Barnard - Child & YP	Public	Lisa Lopez, F&R
Procurement of frozen and grocery food items for Nottingham Catering – key decision	Yes			Jacque Blake

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