

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4397

Author:

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Department:

Growth and City Development

Contact:

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Subject:

Out of Hospital funding for Rough Sleepers 2020-2022

Total Value:

£286,458 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

Agreement to accept revenue grant funding from the Governments Department of Health and Social Care (DoHSC) OF £41,458 from 2020/21 (accrued into 2021/22) and £245,000 for 2021/22 totalling £286,458.

To agree to spend the funding inline with the programme specified in Appendix 1 - Out of Hospital - Schedule of costs.

To grant permission recruit to the role outlined at point 1.1. and create and recruit to the role outlined at point 1.2 in Appendix 1 - Out of Hospital - Schedule of costs

To approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules 4.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (operational issues) and transfer the revenue via a funding agreement to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group in order to deliver the role outlined at point 1.3 in Appendix 1 - Out of Hospital - Schedule of costs.

To accept and spend a funding contribution of £18,231 from Mansfield District Council to cover half the costs of the shared post outlined at point 1.3 in Appendix 1 - Out of Hospital - Schedule of costs.

To delegate authority to the Housing Aid Service Manager to utilise the funding outlined at point 2.1 of Appendix 1 - Out of Hospital - Schedule of costs to secure emergency accommodation for rough sleepers meeting the criteria of the scheme.

To grant permission for the Corporate Director of Development and Growth to authorise an amended schedule of spend, within the funding envelope in accordance with agreement with government advisors.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Hospital discharge to street homelessness has been an ongoing area of concern in Nottingham with challenges, when somebody is medically fit for discharge but is at risk of rough sleeping, around the appropriate assessment of ongoing social, care and clinical needs, availability of suitable accommodation solutions and ongoing community healthcare provision.

In December 2020, the Government's Department of Health and Social Care announced the Out-of-Hospital Care Models for People Experiencing Homelessness: To Reduce Rough Sleeping and Health Inequalities revenue funding stream. Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group partnerships were invited to bid for a share of the revenue to implement and learn from out of hospital care models for people experiencing homelessness. The funding criteria is that it is used to introduce interventions that will help to prevent and reduce inappropriate hospital attendance and readmissions and discharge to the streets as well as providing support with settled lives in the longer term.

Nottingham City Council worked alongside Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group to jointly design and submit a successful bid for £286,458 funding to introduce the measures outlined in Appendix 1 - Out of Hospital Shared Outcomes - schedule of costs. Mansfield District Council has also submitted a parallel bid on behalf of the Nottinghamshire authorities to ensure that provision is consistently available across the city and county.

The successful funding bid (Appendix 2 - Nottingham Out of Hospital Care Model for people experiencing rough sleeping or at risk) seeks to enable delivery of an out-of-hospital service for rough sleepers by providing navigation support to identify people at risk of street homelessness upon discharge from hospital and to coordinate the ongoing assessment and fulfilment of their needs. This project will also facilitate access to and provide interim/step-down accommodation options to reduce bed-blocking pending availability of alternative housing solutions and deliver specialist-nursing treatment whilst ensuring an effective transfer into community clinical care. Also included within this project is a systemic oversight function to promote enduring system change by embedding newly established partnership processes, practices and procedures across the health and housing sectors.

Briefing notes documents:

Appendix 2 - Nottm Out of Hospital Care Model for people experiencing rough sleeping or at risk.docx, Appendix 1 - Out of Hospital - Schedule of costs.docx

Other Options Considered:

Not to bid for the revenue funding. This was rejected because tackling rough sleeping is a priority for Nottingham City Council and street homelessness following hospital treatment where ongoing health needs may endure, is a particular area of concern. It is a challenge for the local authority and health sector to jointly address this issue without additional resource. This funding has provided a unique opportunity to obtain the necessary resource and pilot a partnership approach. To accept the grant funding but spent it in an alternative way. This has been rejected because of the requirement attached to the funding award to spend the funding in accordance with the programme specified at Appendix 1 - Out of Hospital - Schedule of costs. To bid for the funding with the intention of completing a competitive tender procurement exercise for the delivery of the roles outlined at Appendix 1 - Out of Hospital - Schedule of costs. This was rejected because during the coproduction development of the bid it was agreed by Government advisers that the roles would be based in and delivered by existing teams to accelerate mobilisation of the project and maximise the likelihood of deliverability against agreed outcomes.

Background Papers:	None
Published Works:	None
Affected Wards:	Citywide
Colleague / Councillor Interests:	None
Dispensation from Financial Regulations:	Yes
Consultations:	Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.
Crime and Disorder Implications:	None
Equality:	EIA not required. Reasons: A recent EIA for rough sleeping services has been completed
Social Value Considerations:	None
Relates to staffing:	Yes
Decision Type:	Portfolio Holder
Subject to Call In:	Yes
Call In Expiry date:	19/10/2021
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources

Legal Advice:

There are no significant issues arising from this decision. Any proposed spend of the grant to be received must be in accordance with the grant conditions.

A dispensation may be granted for operational reasons. In this decision the dispensation would be from the need to conduct a quotation process. Subject to the Chief Finance Officer and portfolio holder decision maker being satisfied with the operational reasons set out by the report author, and the contract delivering best value for the Council, then the dispensation may be granted.

With regard to the acceptance of funding from Mansfield District Council it will be necessary to have an agreement in place to ensure that the clear conditions on the use of the funding are set out. As the funding will be a contribution towards a shared post then it will be necessary to liaise with HR to understand any employment related obligations for the Council.

Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 16/08/2021.

Finance Advice:

The information contained within Appendix 1 attached to this decision details the spend of the grant and this is in line with its conditions. The contribution from Mansfield DC has been confirmed and as stated in the legal comments an agreement will be needed to ensure that conditions on the use of funding are clear.

A separate cost centre will be set up to ensure that all costs and the grant are monitored and recorded separately for ease of reporting and transparency.

Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 26/08/2021.

Procurement Advice:

There are no procurement concerns in relation to the decision to accept funding totalling £286,458 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to introduce interventions as outlined in the schedule of costs to help to prevent and reduce inappropriate hospital attendance and readmissions and discharge to the streets as well as providing support with facilitating access to interim/step-down accommodation options. This includes spot purchasing of nightly paid self-contained accommodation (e.g. hotels) for people assessed as eligible for the Out of Hospital Care Model for Rough Sleepers Project. Dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.1 as referred to at point 1.3 of Appendix 1, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (operational issues) is supported from a procurement perspective. The use of this funding should comply with the MHGLG grant conditions and suitable agreements should be in place with external providers to ensure compliance and satisfactory performance.

Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 26/07/2021.

HR Advice:

Management need to ensure that the proposed posts are correctly evaluated through Job Evaluation. Management will need to ensure that recruitment is conducted through the appropriate processes, including redeployment consideration. Management should be aware that the selected post-holders should commence on a starting salary of Level One within the respective grade, unless the appointed colleague is already in employment at the Council and on Level 2 of the same grade, in which case the employee would be matched over at the rate of pay they currently receive. There will need to be a support and development plan for the new post-holder once appointed in line with managing performance.

As the posts are temporary, an appropriate exit strategy must be in place in order to terminate the contracts in line with NCC guidance in the event that the post cannot be made permanent at the end of the fixed term period. Management will need to ensure appropriate timelines are in place to notify the affected employee and give appropriate notice.

Advice provided by Aadil Bhatti (HR Consultant) on 17/08/2021.

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Housing, Planning and Heritage)
SIGNED and Dated: 11/10/2021
Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director of Growth & City Development)
SIGNED and Dated: 29/09/2021
Clive Heaphy as Chief Finance Officer (Chief Finance Officer) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 31/08/2021
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: