

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4928

Author:

Lisa Lopez

Department:

People

Contact:

Lisa Lopez

(Job Title: Lead Commissioning Manager, Email: lisa.lopez@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158762746)

Subject:

Individual Placement and Support grant 23/24 and 24/25

Total Value:

£323,197 over 2 years (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1) To approve the receipt of £323,197 of funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), managed by the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID), for the provision of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) for employment support among the population in substance use treatment. 2) To award £79,132.50 of this funding to the existing integrated drug and alcohol treatment service currently provided by Framework (Nottingham Recovery Network) until 30th September 2023, in accordance with Article 18.99 of the Contract Procedure Rules. 3) To award £244,064.50 of this funding to the successful provider of the new Integrated adult substance use treatment and support service, which will commence operation from 1st October 2023, in accordance with Article 18.99 of the Contract Procedure Rules. 4) To delegate signing authority to the Director of Public Health for any contract variations that arise from this process.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) has awarded Nottingham City Council £158,265 for 2023/24 and £164,932 for 24/25. This funding must only be used for the provision of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) for adults who are accessing drug and alcohol support services, and that require tailored and intensive support to access employment. IPS is intensive employment support delivered by trained employment specialists and provided as part of multi-disciplinary clinical services, rather than separately through mainstream employment support services. In accepting this funding, Nottingham City Council agrees that the funding must be used by the provider, to employ one senior employment specialist and two employment specialists who will work along with other professionals from a variety of services, specifically drug and alcohol treatment workers who will be responsible for identifying suitable service users to work with the IPS team. The funding will be allocated to deliver IPS provision alongside the requirements detailed in the service specification for the integrated drug and alcohol treatment service. The funding is awarded for the period of April 2023 - March 2025, with the requirement that the money is spent by 31st March 2025. Nottingham City Council is in an unusual position this year in that the tenders for our drugs and alcohol treatment services are currently live, with the new services are due to commence on 1st October 2023. This means that the funding for the first 2 quarters of 2023/24 (to 30th September 2023 i.e. £79,132.50) must be allocated to the provider of the current Integrated adult substance use treatment and support service (Nottingham Recovery Network). The remainder of the funding, for the period of 1st October 2023 to 31st March 2025, is to be included in the contract for new service (see Appendix 1 for funding breakdown). The potential for this has been included in the specification and values for the new contracts. It is widely accepted that a person is more likely to achieve recovery if they have stability in other areas of their lives; one of the pivotal factors is obtaining and maintaining employment. It can contribute to a person's self-esteem, perceived self-worth and can improve overall mental wellbeing, in addition to providing an income. Dame Carol Black's independent Review of Drugs (February 2020) identifies employment as an essential element of a person's recovery from drug use and/or dependency. This use of the funding will achieve Best Value by utilising the existing service to deliver additional support in a timely manner - no other provider would be able to mobilise service delivery as promptly and efficiently as the current service. The service will also contribute to social value through supporting people who are accessing drug and alcohol support services, and who would not be able to access employment without specifically tailored, intensive support, to access support to work. The aim of the service is for people who would otherwise be unable to work to access employment and have secure income, leading to financial recovery as part of their overall recovery, with the wider economic benefits that this brings.

Briefing notes documents:

DDM 2023 Appendix 1 funding breakdown.docx

Other Options Considered:

1) Do nothing. Rejecting the funding available for this provision will deny Nottingham City the opportunity to develop provision of local Individual Placement and Support services, and ultimately reduce the likelihood of improved outcomes for citizens. Therefore this option is not recommended. 2) Procure IPS provision through a separate competitive process. The tight timeframes set by OHID mean that a new tender process for the IPS would not meet deadlines for service delivery and outcome requirements attached to the funding. In addition, providing the IPS through a separate service is unlikely to provide value for money, compared to integrating it into existing services. Therefore this option is not recommended.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

N/A

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

N/A

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: This is a continuation of existing activities, so there will be no adverse impact on citizens. The equalities clause within all of NCC's Public Health contracts ensures full compliance with the Equality Act and quarterly monitoring is done to confirm the application of the clauses within the contract.

Social Value Considerations:

This decision supports social value by supporting people who are accessing drug and alcohol support services, and who would not be able to access employment without specifically tailored, intensive support, to access support to work. Support is delivered by trained employment specialists and provided as part of multi-disciplinary clinical services. Citizens successful accessing this support will become employed, which will aid their own recovery and mental health, and contribute to the local economy.

Regard for NHS Constitution:

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.

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

11/05/2023

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

Any DWP grant funding conditions must be complied with, failing which there is the risk of clawback of funding.

Articles 18.99 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules permits the extension of an existing contract provided that the variation complies with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR). Regulation 72(1)(b) of the PCR permits a contract to be modified without a new procurement procedure for additional services by the original contractor that have been become necessary and were not included in the initial procurement, where a change of contract cannot be made for economic or technical reasons provided that any increases in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract. The proposed modification set out in Decision 2 is permissible under Regulation 72(1)(b) in that (as set out in the "Reasons" section of the ddm), the Individual Placement and Support Services (IPS services) are intrinsically linked to the integrated adult drug and alcohol treatment and support services within the contract and, therefore, have to be provided by the same provider and the increase in price does not exceed 50% of the original contract value.

Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 21/03/2023. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 21/03/2023.

Finance Advice:

Attached Financial Comments. Advice provided by Tracey Moore (Senior Finance Technician) on 26/04/2023.

Advice documents: Observations of Finance Business Partner.docx

Procurement Advice:

The decision to award funding from DWP for the provision of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) to the existing integrated substance misuse treatment contract as stated in Appendix 1 is permissible under Reg 72 1 (b) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and in accordance with Article 18.99 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Due to it not being possible to secure another provider for such a short duration, this decision is supported from a procurement perspective. The decision to award funding as stated in Appendix 1 to the successful provider of the service commencing 1st October 2023, which is currently undergoing a procurement process, is permissible under Reg 72 1 (a) as this modification has been provided for in the initial procurement documents, and therefore this decision is supported from a procurement perspective.

Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 05/04/2023.

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Adult Social Care and Health)

SIGNED and Dated: 03/05/2023

Lucy Hubber (DPH)

SIGNED and Dated: 02/05/2023