

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2782

Author:

Lisa Lopez

Department:

Strategy and Resources

Contact:

Lisa Lopez

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

Subject:

Ashiana support service for older Asian adults

Total Value:

£142,320 (maximum) (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Issues) in order to directly award the contract without tendering for the service.
- 2) To approve awarding a maximum 3-year contract (01 April 2017 - 31 March 2020) to the 'Ashiana Support Service', including expenditure of up to a maximum £142,320 (£47,440 per year) to fund delivery of the services.
- 3) To delegate authority to the Director of Commissioning and Procurement to enter into the contract and the Head of Contracting and Procurement to sign, the Contract with the service provider.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The service provides support to older (45+) Asian adults who have support needs relating to their health, disability or cultural needs, and it is delivered with a housing provision. The service is culturally appropriate for older Asian people, focusing particularly on the cultural and language issues of this client group.

The service was last reviewed in 2013/14, and as a result of this review was extended. The contract is due to expire on 31 March 2017. In order to review options for how we provide support to vulnerable older Asian adults, it is recommended that the service be considered as part of a wider commissioning review of preventative adult social care services. Until the impact of changing provision of this service is fully understood, it is recommended that funding to the service continues to allow time for this commissioning review to take place as part of the larger commission review.

To offer this service through a newly created block contract would facilitate a saving the Council of up to £20,000 by decommissioning a specific payment system with no impact on delivery. It is therefore recommended that we issue a new block contract for a fixed period of up to 3 years, with an annual contract value of £47,440 which will provide the Council a fixed contract and price.

The rationale to dispense from financial regulations and not procure the service is based upon the following:

- The service is provided by the housing company, and cannot be separately offered by an alternative support provider these properties. Neither can the residents be expected to move into alternative accommodation in order to receive support.
- The current service is meeting contractual targets, and evidence from Adult Social Care suggests that the service is meeting the agreed outcomes for the citizens utilising the service.
- The continuation of this service represents acceptable value for money whilst ensuring that a quality service is provided to this vulnerable group.
- It is not considered efficient to re-tender this service alone at this time until the full Commissioning review of adult social care has been undertaken.

Other Options Considered:

1) Maintain funding for the service and extend the current contract. Due to the payment arrangements for this contract, in order to enact this option it would be necessary to retain the SPOCC payment system at a further cost of approx. £17,000 - 20,000 per year. Providing the service through a block contract instead of the subsidy agreement would remove the requirement for SPOCC, releasing savings without impacting on delivery of the service.

2) Decommission the service and include the funding as specific support for older Asian adults in other support services, facilitating the SPOCC saving. In order to determine the impact this option on vulnerable older Asian adults, the service needs to be considered as part of a wider review of preventative adult social care services. In order to allow time for this commissioning review to take place, it's recommended to fund the continuation of the service through the block contract arrangement.

3) Do nothing - decommission the service from 31 March 2017, releasing £47,440 savings per year from the service costs plus approx. £17,000 - 20,000 pa savings through decommissioning SPOCC. As per Option 2., it's not fully understood what the impact of decommissioning this service would be - this could result in detrimental impact on vulnerable older Asian adults, and pose significant reputational risk to Nottingham City Council. Therefore in order to allow time for a commissioning review to take place, it's recommended to fund the continuation of the service through the block contract arrangement.

Background Papers:

None.

Published Works:

DD 1336

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: This is a continuation of existing services so will continue under existing EIA

Social Value Considerations: N/A

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 24/03/2017

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The proposals in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

It is understood for the reasons stated in the report that the services could not efficiently be offered by an alternative provider at this time and it is proposed that this service will be considered as part of the wider preventative adult social care review rather than in isolation.

The proposal to enter into this contract as a block contract will make the Council significant savings and given the value of this is below the EU procurement threshold, the recommendation for dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 is supported. Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamon (Solicitor) on 14/03/2017.

Finance Advice:

The current budget to fund this contract is within Housing Related Support (HRS). A total of £49,500 per annum has been identified to deliver the service.

The new contract has been agreed at £47,440 per annum, generating a total saving of £6,180 over the 3 year period. This saving will contribute towards the savings targets within HRS from 2017-18.

As a result of the new block contract a further saving will be generated from the decommissioning of the current payment system. It is anticipated this will be a maximum of £20,000. This will also contribute towards the Strategy & Commissioning savings targets approved in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Advice provided by Dee Fretwell (Finance Analyst) on 13/03/2017.

Procurement Advice:

The decision to grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulations 3.29 (Operational Issues) to directly award a three year contract to Ashiana is supported by Procurement for the reasons stated in the main body of the decision. This is subject to the service being considered as part of a wider commissioning review of preventative adult social care services being conducted during the contract period.

Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 13/03/2017.

Signatures

Alex Norris (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 16/03/2017
Candida Brudenell (Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources)
SIGNED and Dated: 16/03/2017
Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 15/03/2017
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: