Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision





Reference Number:

2882

Author:

Alan Lowen

Department:

Strategy and Resources

Contact:

Alan Lowen

(Job Title: Lead Commissioning Manager, Email: alan.lowen@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158763571)

Subject:

Nottinghamshire Rough Sleeper Prevention Service (NRSPS)

Total Value:

£371,350 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To approve spending of £185,675 pa in 2017/18 and 2018/19 (total spend of £371,350) to deliver the Nottinghamshire Rough Sleeper Prevention Service (NRSPS).
- 2) To approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) (Operational Issues) to allow for a direct award of contracts to Framework Housing Association for the provision of this service.
- 3) The period for this direct award will be 01/04/2017 to 31/03/2019.

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Reasons for the Decision(s) | Severe pressures arising from benefit changes, the lack of availability of settled accommodation, cuts to preventative services and other factors have led to reports of significant increases in rough sleeping nationally. Local authority analysis across Nottinghamshire also shows that there has been a significant and rapid increase in rough sleeping locally.

> On the 17th October 2016, the Department for Communities and Local Government announced a £10m fund for local authorities and partner organisations (including other local authorities and providers of frontline service providers) to help new rough sleepers or people at imminent risk of sleeping rough to get the rapid support they need to recover and move on from homelessness. Applications for this funding closed on 28th November 2016.

Nottingham City Council was successful in its bid in partnership with Rushcliffe, Gedling, Broxtowe, Mansfield, Ashfield, Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw councils for funding to deliver a county-wide outreach service for rough sleepers to align to the City's existing Rough Sleepers Enablement Service (see attached background paper - Rough Sleeper Grant Funding Application). This funding is for a total of £371,350 over two years and will be supported by additional funding of £300,000 that Framework will contribute towards the delivery of the service. Framework were identified as a suitable provider to work with for this project.

The service will provide assistance and support to people sleeping rough in Nottingham City and in Nottinghamshire (as well as those who are identified as at risk) in order to help to alleviate their immediate risk of (further) rough sleeping and to encourage a sustainable move away from rough sleeping in the future. The key activity of this service will include steps to identify and engage with rough sleepers; work with rough sleepers to develop individualised action plans and to support and encourage their delivery; supporting access to other services (e.g. the Homelessness Prevention Gateway in Nottingham) and; facilitating reconnection to an area of local connection and support networks where appropriate.

Framework is the current provider for Nottingham City's Rough Sleepers Enablement Service (RSES) and therefore has existing experience in the market. A separate decision is being prepared to extend the RSES for a period of one year to allow for the completion of a commissioning review that will make recommendations for a range of assistance for people who have become homeless (and those at risk) will be provided in the future. This decision to make a direct award of contract to Framework for the provision of the Nottinghamshire Rough Sleepers Prevention Service will allow the service to be implemented without delay from the 1st April 2017 and will also produce value for money and operational benefits by allowing the NRSPS to build from existing arrangements established through the RSES.

The contract will be for a 2 year period for full use of the value of the funding offered by DCLG. The rationale for Nottingham City Council being lead partner is that the service is already being delivered by Framework Housing Association in Nottingham City, and an addendum to this contract will permit them to operate a countywide service. As contract lead, Nottingham City Council will lead on the management of the contract as follows

- Quarterly monitoring returns on agreed outputs
- **Annual reports**
- An evaluation of the service at the end of the programme

A Countywide Rough Sleepers Steering Group will be formed with representation from Nottingham City and the Boroughs and Districts of Nottinghamshire. Nottingham City Council will share monitoring information across all partner organisations.

Nottingham City Council will lead on reporting to DCLG on funding outcomes.

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To tender for a provider to deliver the service in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. This option is rejected on Other Options Considered: the basis that a competitive tender would result in a significant delay to the delivery of the service and is unlikely to produce value for money given the short duration of the contract and the additional funding of £300k that Framework has agreed to contribute to the delivery of the service. **Background Papers: DCLG Rough Sleeping Grant Funding application** Unpublished background Rough Sleepers App - Funding Bid.docx papers: Published Works: None **Affected Wards:** Citywide Colleague / Councillor None. Interests: Dispensation from Financial Yes Regulations: Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision. Crime and Disorder These proposals are expected to help reduce crime and disorder by helping to alleviate rough sleeping in the City across Implications: Nottinghamshire. **Equality:** Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA - Nottinghamshire Rough Sleeper Prevention Service.doc Local authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the NHS Constitution when exercising their public health functions under the Regard for NHS NHS Act 2006. In making this decision relating to public health functions, we have properly considered the NHS Constitution where Constitution: 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:

No

The call-in procedure does not apply to the proposed decision because it is a retrospective decision and has already been implemented.

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Person Consulted: n/a

Consultation Date: 21/06/2017

Not applicable - retrospective decision

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

Despite short time scales for submission, Nottingham City Council successfully submitted a bid to DCLG for grant funding to deliver the Nottinghamshire Rough Sleeper Prevention Service and was successful in being awarded funding as a lead partner. The time to respond and implement this project was very short and without identifying a chosen provider at the point of submission, the Council would not have been able to implement the service in time.

In submitting its bid therefore, the Council identified Framework as an experienced, reputable provider in the market who already delivers a similar service in Nottingham City and so is ready to commence delivery without delayed set-up or implementation costs or work. Framework are also offering match-funding for this project which will significantly improve delivery of the service. For these reasons, it is considered to offer a value for money service to the Council.

Whilst there do not appear to be any strict grant conditions imposed upon the Council in receiving the grant, it must ensure it complies with any obligations imposed upon it in receiving and distributing the money and delivering the project, particularly given its position as the lead partner. At the very least the Council is obliged to comply with monitoring and reporting requirements to DCLG.

The direct contract to Framework is only for the limited 2 year duration that the funding is available and for the reasons identified in the report and on the basis that the service falls within the Light Touch Regime and below the threshold for an EU procurement, dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (Operational Issues) is supported.

Legal services will assist the client department where necessary with any documentation required to reflect this arrangement. Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screaton (Solicitor) on 09/05/2017.

Finance Advice:

The cost of this decision is £371,350 to be spent over two financial years.

The City Council submitted a bid to DCLG for rough sleeping grant funding amounting to £371,350 and has received notification that the bid was successful. The funding will be paid on to Framework who will provide the service outlined across Nottinghamshire County.

Advice provided by Ian Greatorex (Finance Project Manager) on 13/04/2017.

Procurement Advice:

The proposal to dispense with Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) (Operational Issues) to allow for a direct award to Framework Housing Association for the provision of the Nottinghamshire Rough Sleepers Service (NRSPS), for 2 years from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2019, is supported from a procurement perspective. The service falls within the Light Touch Regime and is below the EU procurement threshold. This arrangement is the result of a successful bid by Nottingham City Council, to DCLG. There were very short timescales set by DCLG for responses and implementation of the grant funding, and therefore, by identifying Framework as the provider for NRSPS, the service could be implemented without delay from the 1st April 2017. Match funding for the project is provided by Framework, giving additional service delivery benefits and value for money. Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 09/05/2017.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

It will be important that support to the range and diversity of rough sleepers is met and that services are constantly reviewed to ensure cultural competency. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 12/06/2017.

Signatures

Jane Urquhart (PH for Planning, Housing and Heritage)

SIGNED and Dated: 20/07/2017

Candida Brudenell (Corporate Director for Strategy and Resources)

SIGNED and Dated: 07/07/2017

Geoff Walker (Strategic Director Finance/CFO) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations

SIGNED and Dated: 22/06/2017
Chief Finance Officer's Comments:

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Rough Sleeping Grant Funding

Helping those new to the streets, or at imminent risk of sleeping rough to get the rapid support they need

Funding Bid Application Form

Application Form

Name (each Funding Bid needs a lead, named contact):

Rachael Harding

Local Authority/Strategic Regional Authority:

Nottingham City Council

Job title, address & contact details (including e-mail address):

Housing Strategy Specialist

Nottingham City Council, Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG

rachael.harding@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Are you representing a coalition of commissioners or partners? If yes, list all organisations below:

Nottingham City Council

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Gedling Borough Council

Broxtowe District Council

Mansfield District Council

Ashfield District Council

Newark and Sherwood District Council

Bassetlaw District Council

Amount of funding requested, and indicative profile over the four financial years:

Profile of bid:

	16/17	17/18	18/19
Support	-	-	-
Staff costs	-	£138,810	£138,810
Other	-	£46,865	£46,865
Total	-	£185,675	£185,675

The funding includes a contribution from Framework which is predicted to add considerable impact. A full breakdown of costings can be found at Annex B.

How many individuals do you expect to provide interventions for? 1617

Geographic area to be covered:

Nottinghamshire (including Nottingham city, Rushcliffe, Gedling, Broxtowe, Mansfield, Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood local authority areas)

Criteria A – Need

Current Scale

Projected Scale

If unaddressed, it is likely that the number of rough sleepers will continue to rise to a figure approaching 1,500. The proposal is to establish a countywide Nottinghamshire Rough Sleeper Prevention Service (NRSPS) which will offer 'upstream' interventions to prevent rough sleeping and where it happens keep it to a minimum. If employed, and working to the principles of NSNO, the service would expect to impact by delivering a small decrease in Year 1 down to 874 as the service becomes established followed by a greater one in Year 2 down to 743.

Estimate for those sleeping rough for 5 days or less

Extrapolating data from the Nottingham City NSNO countywide it is estimated that a minimum of 38% or 359 of the current population will sleep rough for 5 days or less. The aim of the new service will be to increase this proportion so that fewer people go on to sleep rough for longer periods.

Additionality

There is currently no dedicated service working with rough sleepers outside of Nottingham City. The new service will deliver a countywide intervention based on the principles of NFNO and NSNO. It will work closely with Housing Options Teams to identify people in danger of rough sleeping and deliver interventions to reduce rough sleeping by those new to the streets and among more established rough sleepers. NRSPS will verify rough sleepers and record them on a database modelled on the CHAIN recoding system currently used by the Nottingham City Street Outreach Team. The Freephone Rough Sleeper Hotline (linked to Streetlink) will be extended to the county to enable rough sleepers to self-refer and to facilitate referral by the public.

Reach

The service will deliver targeted interventions across Nottingham City and the seven Districts and Boroughs of Nottinghamshire. The service will develop new partnerships across the area and promote multi-agency working.

Methodology

Estimates are based on and extrapolated from data collected by:

- All participating Local Authorities
- Street outreach
- Scoping work in Nottinghamshire
- Nottingham City Rough Sleeper Hotline
- Streetlink
- Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey

Criteria B – Value for Money

Cost Savings

Rough sleepers often present with a complexity of need which requires input from a number of statutory and non-statutory agencies. The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey identified the principal support needs as being:

- Drug abuse (50% presentations)
- Domestic Violence (47%)

- Physical health (41%)
- Ex-offender (38%)
- Mental health (34%)
- Alcohol Abuse (30%)
- Physical Disability (17%)
- Learning Disability (16%)

<u>Research</u> by New Economy, Manchester, has attempted to quantify the cost attached to a range of interventions which rough sleepers are likely to require. By matching the cost per likely intervention to the support need it is possible to understand the potential cost (and saving).

Health

Alcohol Misuse: £2,015 p.a.
Drug Misuse: £3,727 p.a.
Ambulance Call-out: £223
A&E attendance: £117

- Inpatient admittance: £1,863 per episode

Mental Health: £2,197 p.a.GP attendance: £125 per hour.

Criminal Justice

Anti-Social Behaviour (Cost per Incident): £673
 Domestic Violence (Cost per Incident): £2,836

Imprisonment: £34,840 p.a.Arrest: £719 (Cost per Incident)Court Appearance: £14,603

Rough Sleeping

- Local Authority expenditure: £8,605 (per individual)

Cost for Each Individual Reached

At What Cost (Crisis 2015) used case studies to gauge the potential cost of rough sleeping. In its vignette, the cost of early intervention (12 weeks) is £1,426. If rough sleeping persists for 12 months the cost rises to £20,128, reflecting the increased use of services (including health, criminal justice interventions and specialist accommodation). Further, it estimates that the cost of resolving rough sleeping rises and at the end of 12 months is an additional £13,782 (supported accommodation, resettlement, floating support).

In Total

To best understand the level of cost saving, we have grouped projected numbers into three bands:

- Individuals sleeping rough for 5 nights or less: Band 1

- Individuals sleeping rough sleeping for 6 months (multiple needs): Band 2

Individuals sleeping rough for 12 months (multiple and complex needs): Band 3

Current Cost

	No. of Individuals	Cost
Band 1	359	£ 897,500
Band 2	445	£6,720,050
Band 3	142	£2,858,176
Total	946	£10,475,726

Projected Saving (Year 1)

	No. of Individuals	Cost	Saving
Band 1	437	£1,092,500	- £195,000
Band 2	393	£5,537,370	£1,182,680
Band 3	44	£ 885,632	£1,972,544
Total	874	£7,515,502	£2,960,224

Projected Saving (Year 2)

	No. of Individuals	Cost	Saving
Band 1	446	£1,115,000	- £217,500
Band 2	292	£4,114,280	£2,605,770
Band 3	5	£100,640	£2,757,536
Total	743	£5,329,920	£5,145,806

Evidence

The evidence is based on data compiled from local and national research carried out by:

- New Economy, Manchester
- Crisis
- Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey

Criteria C – Approach

Criteria D – Partnership Working

Current local partnerships include statutory and non-statutory agencies:

Housing

Ashfield District Council; Bassetlaw District Council; Broxtowe Borough Council; Gedling Borough Council; Mansfield District Council; Newark and Sherwood District Council; Rushcliffe Borough Council; Hope for the Homeless; Framework Housing Association; YMCA; Broxtowe Youth Homeless; Forces in the Community; Private Landlords; B&B accommodation providers; Winter Night Shelters.

- Homeless Support

Social Services; Emmanuel House Day Centre; The Friary Day Centre; The Beacon Day Centre; Street Pastors; Trussell Trust Food Banks; Big Issue; Transforming Notts (Faith Based Support); CAB; Refugee Forum; The Royal British Legion; SSAFA; The Law Centre; Credit Union; Free Meals Network (Soup Runs); Opportunity Nottingham; Arimathea Trust (refugees); Nottingham Fire and Rescue.

- Health

Improving Lives (Mental Health support); AWAAZ (Mental Health support); Nottingham Recovery Network; Nottingham University Hospitals; Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust; Change, Grow, Live; GP practices; NHS Homeless Health Team

- Criminal Justice/Enforcement

National Probation Service; Nottingham CRC; Nottinghamshire Police; East Midlands ICE

Team; Community Protection; Integrated Offender Management

- Domestic abuse

Notts. Rape Crisis; Women's Aid; Equation (Domestic Abuse); POW (Prostitute Outreach Work)

New and Enhanced Multi-Agency Partnerships

The most significant new relationship will be with the health sector through the secondment of a member of staff from the NHS Homeless Health Team. The health needs of rough sleepers are well documented and often act as a significant barrier to sustainable independent living. This innovative approach will lead to enhanced working relations with the health sector and cement 'health thinking' into housing and support considerations.

The service will enhance partnerships through the creation of a multi-agency steering group to oversee the service and monitor performance. The group will meet twice yearly and comprise representatives of both statutory and non-statutory services. The group will report into the Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy Implementation Group.

Impact of Partnership Working

NRSPS will impact on the flow of rough sleeping and the length of time spent on the street through targeted interventions. By developing an integrated approach including shared processes the model will deliver equity of access. Through closer working supported by shared information gathering and data management a consistent approach to individual cases will be developed based on the principle of 'a single offer' and resulting in a countywide approach with shared objectives in managing individual cases.

Co-commissioning and Co-location of services

The service will be delivered by Framework Housing Association which is commissioned to deliver rough sleeper street outreach services in Nottingham City. An addendum to the current contract will permit them to operate a countywide service.

The service will be located in supported accommodation services and co-located within Local Authority housing offices on a surgery/sessional basis.

Going Forward

The partnership is committed to long term sustainability and the promotion of system change to reduce rough sleeping. The Steering Group will produce a Partnership Plan which will prioritise:

- Access to services
- Common processes and data sharing
- An integrated approach understanding the role of health, criminal justice, etc
- An emphasis on prevention and early intervention
- Sustainable living in the community
- Sustaining change through commissioning, funding and policy

Criteria E – Strategic Fit

Local strategic context

Delivery of innovative and flexible interventions, resulting in effective resettlement and thereby reducing incidences of repeat homelessness is embedded in the vision of the Nottingham City Inter-agency Homelessness Prevention Strategy. Nottinghamshire was an early adopter of NSNO in 2012 and the NRSPS proposal allows us to maintain our commitment to this approach as well as supporting our aim to prevent and reduce repeat homelessness. Newark and Sherwood and Mansfield DC have a Homeless Prevention

Strategy with objectives within to achieve 'fewer people rough sleeping' and 'more people with complex needs are able to access the accommodation and support they need'.

End-to-end response

A bid to the Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer fund has been submitted by a cross-sector partnership in Nottingham. The system changing proposal intends to deliver a "Prevention Plus" earlier intervention approach involving the early identification of households with low resilience and who could be more likely to become at risk of homelessness in the future. Households will be identified upon contact with partners from outside of the homelessness sector (such as health professionals, employment and welfare advisors, housing providers and social workers). Partners will be trained to pick up on particular risk indicators to support them in their role of delivering homelessness prevention.

Following identification, partners will use a common referral form to prompt access to a person centred strengths based assessment, resulting in the development of a personal wellbeing and housing plan. Lead workers will facilitate access to a suite of personalised options (such as employment support, tenancy training and wellbeing initiatives) to holistically meet individual's needs.

The aim is a move towards common practice in accessing support at this early stage before a household is close to homelessness and this will consequently lead to fewer people requiring assistance when they are at crisis point. To ensure that people already in crisis are assisted away from homelessness, the strengths based assessment and subsequent support will also be accessible to NRSPS service users.

By expanding on traditional housing options and delivering the NRSPS alongside Prevention Plus we are proposing a fully comprehensive approach which prevents all households from the future risk of homelessness (or threat of repeat homelessness).

Future commissioning

This proposal includes a comprehensive plan for cross-sector information sharing practices, thorough collection of data and monitoring regimes to identify emerging issues and trends. This information will be shared with the Nottingham Inter-agency Homelessness Prevention Strategy Implementation Group, which has responsibility for co-ordinating the delivery of the City's Homelessness Prevention Strategy. The group is also used as a source of reference by the local authority, health sector and OPCC to guide commissioning activity. The information will also be shared with other commissioning bodies and partnerships across Nottinghamshire.

The information gathered by this proposal will also directly feed into Nottingham City Council's planned review of support for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The opportunities to reduce costs through interventions designed to divert people from rough sleeping and to resolve rough sleeping more quickly that are to be explored through this proposal will feed into this review.

Criteria F - Data and Evidence

Existing Data Sources

The following sources have been used to quantify and estimate the current and projected levels of rough sleeping:

- Local Authority data (Including annual estimate meetings)
- Street Outreach data
- Specific scoping work in Nottinghamshire
- Rough Sleeper Hotline
- Streetlink
- Homeless Watch Survey

(Please see Appendix A)

New Data

The service will produce:

- Quarterly monitoring returns on agreed outputs
- Annual reports
- An evaluation of the service at the end of the programme

The service will develop a comprehensive database of rough sleepers across Nottinghamshire based on the one currently in use by the Street Outreach Team in Nottingham City. This is based on the CHAIN (Combined Homelessness & Information Network) model, a multi-agency database that records information about rough sleepers. The new service will use 'Inform' a support planning and risk assessment software tool which facilitates real time updating of support plans and risk management strategies. Support needs data is transferred onto the database.

The service will second a member of the NHS Homeless Nursing Team who will be able to access health history through internal health data capturing systems e.g. RIO. This more comprehensive data will feed into support planning and ultimately feature in monitoring returns, annual reports and evaluation.

Data Sharing

A Countywide Rough Sleepers Steering Group will be formed with representation from Nottingham City and the Boroughs and Districts of Nottinghamshire. The group will meet twice yearly to discuss performance and strategic approaches. Monitoring information will be shared across the Local Authorities. At the end of the programme the service will be evaluated and the learning disseminated across the sector. The service will present at local, regional and national forums if requested.

Value

The collection and evaluation of data is vital in understanding the effectiveness of individual and programmed interventions. The value of data informs efficient work practices the end of which is to promote system change. This means influencing the way services operate and are commissioned at a strategic level beyond the lifetime of the funding period. Priorities include developing:

- a joint cross-county approach to rough sleeping
- a unified assessment and data sharing process
- a joined approach to prevention and early intervention
- a joined up pathway of accommodation and services
- sustainable outcomes for those vulnerable to rough sleeping and/or repeat

homelessness

Case Level Housing Options Data

As part of the ongoing monitoring the service will be required to produce two case studies per quarter and case studies will feature in annual reporting and the end of programme evaluation. The aim of the case studies will be to describe the journey form assessment to eventual sustainable resettlement from the viewpoint of the service user. Case studies evidence the efficacy of interventions and describe the very different support needs that rough sleepers present with.

Information sharing

As contract lead Nottingham City Council would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the national evidence base on rough sleeping by working to combine relevant data sets.

Completed forms to be submitted by 5pm 28th November 2016 to: roughsleeping@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A – Data Sources

Information	Available	Source
Number of single homeless people	√	Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy Implementation Group
Number of single homeless people approaching Housing Options, and their outcomes	✓	Nottingham City Council
Number of rough sleepers	✓	Framework
Number of people hostels	✓	Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Gateway
Flow of rough sleepers/those in hostels	✓	Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Gateway
Names of those rough sleeping and in hostels	✓	Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Gateway
Demographic profile of those rough sleeping and in hostels	✓	Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Gateway
Support needs of those rough sleeping and in hostels	✓	Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Gateway
Length of time rough sleeping or in hostels	✓	Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Gateway
History of time without secure accommodation	✓	Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Gateway
Use of other services by rough sleeping and hostel dwelling cohorts. Please list. This could include physical or mental health, substance misuse, A&E attendance, interactions with police, the criminal justice system, social services, education, and the benefits system including employment records.	✓	Nottingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy Implementation Group

Annex B – Amount of funding requested and indicative profile

DCLG Contribution

Rough Sleeper Prevention Worker (Grade 11)	£23,135	
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Training (2% of staff cost)	£2,776	
Staff Mobile & Guardian 24	£1,532	
Netbook	£1,100	
Insurance	£210	
Printing & Stationary	£1,000	
Travel	£6,000	
Accommodation Costs	£17,368	
Central Charge (10%)	16,879	
Total	£185,675	

Framework Contribution

Total	£150,000
Central Charge (10%)	£13,637
Office Costs	£2,800
Accommodation Costs	£42,632
Medical Equipment	£4,750
Band 6 Homeless Nurse	£42,975
Team Leader	£35,335
Service Manager (0.2)	£7,871

Total Funding

£7,871
£35,335
£42,975
£23,135
£23,135
£23,135
£23,135
£23,135
£23,135
£60,000
£4,750
£2,800
£210
£1,532
£400
£1,000
£6,000
£700
£2,776
£30,516
£335,675

Equality Impact Assessment Form (Page 1 of 2)

Title of EIA / DDM: Nottinghamshire Rough Sleeper Prevention Service (NRSPS)

Name of Author: Jonathan Hill, Commissioning Manager

Department: Strategy & Resources Director: Katy Ball, Director of Commissioning and Procurement

Service Area: Strategic Commissioning

Author (assigned to Covalent): Jonathan Hill / Bobby Lowen

Brief description of proposal / policy / service being assessed:

The service will provide assistance and support to people sleeping rough in the City of Nottingham and in Nottinghamshire in order to help alleviate their immediate risk of rough sleeping and to take steps to encourage a sustainable move away from rough sleeping in the future. The key activity of this service will include steps to identify and engage with rough sleepers; work with rough sleepers to develop individualised action plans, and to support and encourage their delivery; supporting access to other services (e.g. the Homelessness Prevention Gateway in Nottingham); and facilitating reconnection to an area of local connection and support networks where appropriate.

A total of up to £371,350 is to be made available over two years in order to deliver the service.

Information used to analyse the effects on equality:

The proposals have been developed in collaboration with Framework Housing Association. The profile of people at risk of rough sleeping and those identified as sleeping rough and how this interacts with their circumstances (e.g. barriers to accessing settled accommodation) has been considered as part of this work, and has been used to ensure the suitability of the proposals. This information will also be used to feed into further actions as part of the implementation of this decision.

Framework has an Equality and Diversity Policy that recognises the diverse client group it serves, and the need to avoid discrimination in service provision. Framework has a commitment to be an organisation that:

- Develops services to achieve equality and diversity in all its activities
- Aims to have a workforce that generally reflects the local population
- Aims to offer services to the diverse client group that exists in the areas it serves
- Understands how valuing diversity can improve their ability to deliver better services
- Actively consults with all their service users to ensure that services which are provided are responsive and reflect the diversity of need
- Provides all employees with the training and development they need to enable them to achieve organisational goals
- Challenges society's attitude towards their client group.

Analysis of those people who require supported accommodation shows that more men (59%) than women require a service. This is an over-representation compared with the Nottingham population as a whole. In addition, White-British people are over represented (72% of need compared with 65% of the population). Despite these differences, observation has shown that access to accommodation is equitable for citizens by ethnicity. This was determined from the proportion of people who presented for accommodation at Gateway for each ethnic group, compared with the proportions of those who accessed accommodation.

Rough sleepers often present with a complexity of need which requires input from a number of statutory and non-statutory agencies. The Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch Survey identified the principal support needs as being:

- Drug abuse (50% presentations)
- Domestic Violence (47%)
- Physical health (41%)
- Ex-offender (38%)
- Mental health (34%)
- Alcohol Abuse (30%)
- Physical Disability (17%)
- Learning Disability (16%)

	Could particularly benefit X	May adversely impact X
People from different ethnic groups.		
Men	\boxtimes	
Women		
Trans		
Disabled people or carers.		
Pregnancy/ Maternity		
People of different faiths/ beliefs and those with none.		
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people.		
Older		
Younger		
Other (e.g. marriage/ civil partnership, looked after children, cohesion/ good relations, vulnerable children/ adults). Vulnerable adults		

How different groups could be affected

(Summary of impacts)

Most beneficiaries of the service are likely to be male, as men are disproportionately at risk of rough sleeping. Assistance will also be provided to women and couples. People who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping who will be assisted by the service are also more likely to experience other vulnerabilities including poor mental health.

EU migrants without benefit entitlements and failed asylum seekers without recourse to public funds account for a significant proportion of people rough sleeping in the City and the County. The service will work to deliver sustainable routes away from rough sleeping for these (and other) groups accessing the additional support provided.

By developing an integrated approach including shared processes, the service will deliver equity of access. Through closer working supported by shared information gathering and data management a consistent approach to individual cases will be developed based on the principle of 'a single offer' and resulting in a countywide approach with shared objectives in managing individual cases.

Details of actions to reduce negative or increase positive impact

(or why action isn't possible)

Contracts to be amended (through variation agreements) or created to implement these proposals will clarify expectations of provider organisations responsible for their delivery in respect of (i) access and eligibility and (ii) activity to encourage sustainable routes away from rough sleeping. The service provider will be required to provide regular monitoring of access to the service and outcomes delivered.

The organisation (Framework Housing Association) selected to deliver the service that will be put in place through the implementation of this decision has been chosen for their experience in working with homeless and socially excluded citizens. This includes evidence of services having been adapted (e.g. through the recruitment of speakers of languages other than English) to take account of the needs of socially excluded citizens.

The provider is required to ensure that service users who have limited English or who experience verbal communication difficulties (e.g. BSL users) will be provided with appropriate mechanisms to enable their full participation in support sessions. This might include support from staff with appropriate language skills, community

			members, or translation services. Where friends or family provides translation, consideration will be given to the appropriateness of this, particularly the need for confidentiality.
Outcome(s) of equality	impact assessment:		
•No major change needed ⊠	•Adjust the policy/proposal •A	Adverse impact but continue	
•Stop and remove the policy/pro	posal 🗌		
 Arrangements for future monitoring of equality impact of this proposal / policy / service: Contracts will be put in place (either through variation to current agreements or award) prior to the commencement of services in line with the timetable for delivery. These will include provisions to take account of equality and diversity considerations and to ensure that the service will be delivered in accordance with all partners' Equality and Diversity policies. The support provider will be required to submit regular monitoring under the requirements of the contract to show the profile of clients accessing the service and according to outcomes delivered. This will be reviewed by a steering group set up to oversee the delivery of the service. 			
Approved by (manager	signature):	Date sent to equality	team for publishing:
		30 th March 2017	