

	REPORT TO CABINET TO BE HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2019	
	Key Decision	YES
Corporate Priority Aim 3 – Creating Healthy and Vibrant Communities	Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Cllr Bill Chatt Cabinet member for Public Health and Housing

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR (NE) - 19/005

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

**SUBJECT: REVENUE FUNDING TO SUPPORT NEWBURN
HOUSE/ OUTREACH SERVICE AND WINTER WATCH**

RECOMMENDATION (S):

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Agree that £40,000 a year from the Council's homelessness budget is allocated to support the joint commissioning of an intensive housing support service for homeless people from October 2019. This funding is for a three year period with the option to extend for a further 2 years.
- 2) Agree that £25,000 a year from the Council's homelessness budget is allocated to support the provision of emergency temporary accommodation for homeless people from October 2019 (for a three year period from October 2019 with the option to extend for a further 2 years) and note that the intention is for this service to be included within the commissioning of the above intensive housing support service.
- 3) Agree to enter into a formal agreement with NYCC in respect to the use of these monies to support a procurement exercise to be undertaken by them.
- 4) Give the Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Director the authority to agree to extend the funding for the above services for a further 2 years after the initial 3 year term.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Council has various statutory duties towards the homeless.

The recommendations contained within this report support the Council to meet these duties.

HIGHLIGHTED RISKS:

See attached matrix.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 For many years the Council has supported and funded various initiatives to help tackle rough sleeping within the Borough. These have included:

- The joint commissioning of the **Changing Lives Service** (an intensive housing support service for the most chaotic homeless people within the Borough).
- The commissioning of a **Winter Watch Service** that provides out of hours assessments and emergency accommodation for rough sleepers during the winter months.
- The commissioning of **Day Services** for rough sleepers via the Rainbow Centre.
- The commissioning of a **Resettlement Scheme** for rough sleepers via the Rainbow Centre.
- Close multi-agency partnership working between the Council, the Police and various voluntary sector providers through its **Homeless Tasking Group**.

1.2 The contract for the Changing Lives Service ends in September 2019. This report seeks agreement from the Council to continue its £40,000 per annum funding contribution (from the existing homelessness budget) into the joint 'commissioning pot' with NYCC for a similar intensive support service to for a further 3 years (with the option to extend for a further 2 years).

1.3 The report also highlights the way that emergency provision for homeless rough sleepers (the 'winter watch service') must change in 2019 due to the de-commissioning by NYCC of the current contract to provide support to homeless people from September 2019. The report recommends that this service is therefore included within the above commissioning exercise and that the Council continues its £25,000 per annum funding.

2. CORPORATE AIMS/PRIORITIES AND THE COMMUNITY PLAN

2.1 Contributes to Aim 3 of the Council's Corporate Plan, 'Creating Healthy and Vibrant Communities'.

3. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

3.1 Changing Lives Service

- 3.1.1 In partnership with the Council and Beyond Housing (formerly Yorkshire Coast Homes) NYCC commission an intensive housing support service for homeless people, Newburn House and Outreach Service (formerly called Changing Lives).
- 3.1.2 The service has been provided since 2013. It was re-commissioned in October 2016 through an open competitive process for a three year period.
- 3.1.3 Under current arrangements NYCC make an annual investment into a 'commissioning pot' to pay for this service of £137K per annum. The Council contributes £40K from its homelessness budgets and Beyond Housing (YCH) fund a further £22K per annum.
- 3.1.4 The current service provides 6 units of supported accommodation in Newburn House, which is owned by York Housing and an outreach service for up to a maximum of 12 individuals. The main aim of this service is to change the lives of the most chaotic homeless individuals in the Scarborough Borough to enable them to achieve positive and/or sustainable outcomes, whilst reducing the financial strain on local resources.

3.2 Winter Watch

- 3.2.1 The Council has for many years funded severe weather provision for rough sleepers through the 'Winter Watch' Service. This service was originally provided via Scarborough Homeless Support Services. In recent years it has been provided by Horton Housing in association with the Rainbow Centre.
- 3.2.2 This service works by referring identified rough sleepers during the winter months to the Police Station where they are assessed by Horton Housing and provided with emergency accommodation.
- 3.2.3 The Council fund £25K a year from its homeless budget to pay for this service.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation on the service specification is being undertaken through a variety of means including a recent stakeholder feedback session and through a planned market engagement exercise.

5.0 ASSESSMENT

5.1 Changing Lives Service

- 5.1.1 The original concept of the service was that it would be supported by multi-agency partners in order to address the most chaotic homeless individuals. Whilst the service has had some success in helping to manage behaviour and reduce the impact of chaotic individuals, for a number of reasons, this original concept has not developed as it was envisaged. This was noted by Members of the recent Scrutiny Task Group into rough sleeping within the Borough. Whilst the Task Group very much acknowledged the need for such a service it was recognised that the current form of provision was too ambitious and that the service specification and method of delivery needed to change.
- 5.1.2 All permitted extensions for the existing contract have now been utilised. NYCC are therefore reviewing the service to inform future commissioning intentions and seek the necessary approvals to procure an appropriate service for complex homeless individuals in the Scarborough Borough from 1st October 2019. As part of this process the specification for the service will change. These changes are being informed by feedback from the current provider and through wider stakeholder consultation more generally.
- 5.1.3 Subject to necessary approvals, the intention is for the final service specification along with invitations to tender to be published in March 2019. This is with a view to procuring a new contract provider from October 2019. It is understood that NYCC are committed to continuing their funding contribution to this service at existing levels (£137K per annum) going forward. Beyond Housing have not at this stage committed any future funding to this service
- 5.1.4 This report therefore seeks agreement to continue the Council's £40K contribution per annum for three years with the option to extend for a further two. Funding for this service shall be met from the Council's current homelessness budgets.

5.2 Winter Watch

- 5.2.1 The Council has various statutory responsibilities toward the homeless. The provision of some form of emergency accommodation for rough sleepers during the winter months (regardless of whether a statutory duty is owed) is a key expectation of Government and forms part of the Council's own adopted Homelessness Strategy.
- 5.2.2 However the way that the Council is able to provide this service in future years is impacted by wider changes.
- 5.2.3 Horton Housing are currently commissioned by NYCC to provide support services for homeless people across the Scarborough Borough and Ryedale areas. This service provides support to 120 homeless households across both areas including all occupants within the Council's temporary accommodation.

NYCC have now confirmed that as part of a wider need to find significant savings across the board this service shall be decommissioned from September 2019. NYCC are looking at alternative 'in-house' delivery options for a similar support service going forward, however it is important to note that this service in whatever form it takes will have a significantly reduced capacity.

- 5.2.4 A key implication of this decision is that from next winter Horton Housing shall be unable to continue to provide the Winter Watch Service. It is therefore recommended that the £25K currently spent on this service is added to the commissioning pot for the Newburn House and Outreach Service (above) and that the service specification for that contract is changed to ensure that this service shall continue to be provided by the new service provider.
- 5.2.5 The revised specification shall include a requirement on the provider to work hand in hand with the Council and the Rainbow Centre in respect of the delivery of this service.
- 5.2.6 Again it is recommended that this funding is committed for the next three years with an option to extend a further 2 years subject to agreement of the Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Director.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

(a) Policy

No implications

(b) Financial

This report commits the Council to fund £65K per year for the next 3 years into a 'commissioning pot' to pay for services for chaotic homeless people and rough sleepers.

The report highlights that there will be an option to extend the contract that is procured through this commissioning pot for a further 2 years subject to agreement by the Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Director.

Funds to pay for this service shall come from existing budgets and require no growth.

(c) Legal

The Council's commitment to fund these services shall be set out in a formal agreement with NYCC.

(d) Equalities and Diversity

The provision of services for homeless people will have a positive impact in terms of Equalities and Diversity issues.

(e) Staffing Issues

No implications

(f) Environmental, Health and Safety, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder

The provision of services to reduce rough sleeping will have a positive impact in terms of Environmental, Health and Safety, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder

(g) Planning

No implications

Nicholas Edwards

**Nick Edwards
Director**

Author: Andrew Rowe – Housing Manager
Telephone No: 01723 383598
Fax No: 01723 365280
E-mail address: andrew.rowe@scarborough.gov.uk

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Ref	Date	Risk	Consequences	Mitigation	Current Risk Score	Target Score	Service Unit Manager/ Responsible Officer	Action Plan
1	January 2019	The Council does not make a contribution into the commissioning pot for the Newburn House/Outreach Service	<p>NYCC funding is likely to cease.</p> <p>The service shall cease.</p> <p>This would have a negative impact on the delivery of the Council's homeless strategy.</p> <p>Levels of rough sleeping in the Borough are likely to increase.</p>	<p>The Council continues its funding commitment.</p> <p>New service is commissioned</p>	E4	A1	Housing manager	
2	January 2019	The Council does not continue to fund the winter watch service	<p>The service shall cease.</p> <p>This would have a negative impact on the delivery of the Council's homeless strategy.</p> <p>Levels of rough sleeping in the Borough are likely to increase.</p> <p>Potential for winter deaths of rough sleepers.</p> <p>Negative publicity and censure from Government.</p>	<p>The Council continues its funding commitment.</p> <p>New service is commissioned</p>	E4	A1	Housing manager	

Risk	An event which may prevent the Council achieving its objectives
Consequences	The outcome if the risk materialised
Mitigation	The processes and procedures that are in place to reduce the risk
Current Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score with the current mitigation measures in place
Corporate Objectives	An assessment of the Corporate Objectives that are affected by the risk identified.
Target Risk Score	The likelihood and impact score that the Council is aiming to achieve
Service Unit Manager	The Service Unit or Officer responsible for managing the risk
Action Plan	The proposed actions to be implemented in order to reduce the risk to the target score

Risk Scoring

Impact	5					
	4					
	3					
	2					
	1					
		A	B	C	D	E
	Likelihood					

Likelihood:

- A = Very Low
- B = Not Likely
- C = Likely
- D = Very Likely
- E = Almost Certain

Impact

- 1 = Low
- 2 = Minor
- 3 = Medium
- 4 = Major
- 5 = Disaster

