

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: Monday, 7 March 2022

Report Title: East Sussex Rough Sleeping Initiative – Commissioning Update

Report By: Andrew Palmer, Assistant Director Housing and Built Environment

Key Decision: Y

Classification: Open

Purpose of Report

To update Cabinet on the development of the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) programme for 2022/25 and to seek approval for interim arrangements.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. To grant an exemption under rule 21c of the council’s financial operating procedures to commission services for an interim extension to the Rough Sleeping Initiative services from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022 to avoid gaps in provision**
- 2. To grant an exemption under rule 21c of the council’s financial operating procedures to commission services funded by Public Health by the end of March 2022, for delivery in 2022/23**

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The application process for the Rough Sleeping Initiative has been delayed by the pandemic. Extending existing contracts will prevent any gaps in provision.

Introduction

1. The East Sussex Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) is a local response to the national rough sleeping strategy which is seeking to end rough sleeping in the next 3 years.
2. The services commissioned through the current programme come to an end in March 2022. The council is currently developing a bid to continue services until 2025.

East Sussex Rough Sleeping Initiative

3. The council is currently working with partners to develop a bid to continue the East Sussex Rough Sleeping Initiative from April 2022 until March 2025. The bid will focus on 4 key areas:
 - Prevention - Activities to stop people sleeping rough for the first time
 - Intervention - Support for those currently sleeping rough to move off the street
 - Recovery - Support for those who have slept rough to ensure they do not return to the streets
 - Systems Support - Systems and structures to embed change and monitor progress
4. We have been working closely with the cross-sector East Sussex Homeless Forum, facilitated by Homeless Link, to explore opportunities for future service development.
5. A legacy of the pandemic is a high number of former rough sleepers living in temporary accommodation. Providing move on accommodation, both through the RSI and future capital funding, will be a priority for the service.

Public Health

6. Additional funding of £514,266 has been secured through Public Health's Containing Outbreak Management Fund. The funding will provide enhanced substance dependency, mental health, clinical psychology and trauma informed care support. The public health initiatives must be mobilised in this financial year to continue delivery in 2022/23.

Timescales

7. The bidding process for the RSI was delayed by the pandemic. Bids are to be submitted by the end of February and funding allocations will be announced in April.
8. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has confirmed that local authorities will receive at least 75% of the funding they received in quarter 1 2021/22 in quarter 1 2022/23 to avoid gaps in provision while the funding bids are reviewed.
9. Once funding has been confirmed, the council will undertake a procurement exercise, in partnership with East Sussex Procurement Hub, to commission ongoing services.
10. An update report will be presented back to Cabinet once the funding award has been confirmed.

Financial Implications

11. The funding which will be allocated to East Sussex in quarter 1 2022/23 (based on our 2021/22 allocation) will be £393,750. It is intended that the council will extend the existing contractual arrangements from 1 April to 30 June, this will include:
- Project Co-Ordinator
 - Multi-Disciplinary Team
 - Assessment Centre
 - Hastings and Rother Outreach and Housing First Service
 - Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden Outreach and Housing First Service
 - Rapid Rehousing Pathway
 - In-Form caseload management system
12. The total value of the contract extensions will be £354,000. The remaining funding will be used for temporary accommodation and landlord incentives,

Timetable of Next Steps

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Funding bid for 2022/25 submitted	Bid submitted	February 2022	Strategic Housing and Projects Manager / RSI Project Co-Ordinator
Mobilise Public Health funded activities	Staff in post	March 2022	Strategic Housing and Projects Manager / RSI Project Co-Ordinator
Interim extensions agreed to existing contracts	Extensions agreed with providers	March 2022	Strategic Housing and Projects Manager
Funding for 2022/25 confirmed	Funding allocations announced by government	April 2022	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Services commissioned for quarter 2 2022/23	Tender exercise completed	June 2022	Assistant Director, Housing and Built Environment

onwards			
---------	--	--	--

Wards Affected

(All Wards);

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score: 32.9

Have you used relevant project tools?: Y

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	N
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	N
Risk Management	Y
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	N
Economic/Financial Implications	Y
Human Rights Act	Y
Organisational Consequences	Y
Local People's Views	N
Anti-Poverty	Y
Legal	Y

Additional Information

Insert a list of appendices and/or additional documents. Report writers are encouraged to use links to existing information, rather than appending large documents.

Officer to Contact

Officer Michael Courts

Email mcourts@hastings.gov.uk

Tel 01424 451 315