

DECISION RECORD ¹

Subject: Award a contract for the provision of a supported housing service	
Staff Contact: Julia Fleming	Executive Member: Jim McManus
Tel: 01438-844135	Portfolio: Public Health

1. Decision

The Public Health Service will be awarding a contract for the provision of a supported housing service to Supporting Herts.

2. Reasons for the decision

Supporting Herts is a consortium of third sector organisations Westminster Drugs Project and Druglink.

Supporting Herts provides a unique, innovative specialised abstinence based HRS service to often very complex Service Users experiencing substance misuse issues and dual diagnosis across Hertfordshire.

The Supporting Herts provision provides:

- Abstinence based recovery bed provision (x15 beds)
- A Countywide Floating support service
- A Private Landlord Rent Deposit Scheme (RDS)

Recovery bed provision

There are 15 recovery beds based in Hertford (x4 beds) and Hemel Hempstead (x11 beds). The beds are primarily for those returning from prison, rehab, hospital or hostel accommodation who have achieved a period of abstinence but whom are returning to the community with No Fixed Abode (NFA) roofless/homeless/sofa surfing. The beds are for up to a 6 month stay while the Service User continues their recovery and appropriate move-on accommodation is sought.

Floating support

The service provides one-to-one outreach support to people who are experiencing substance misuse who are at risk of eviction. The aim of the service is to prevent people from becoming homeless.

Private Rented Sector scheme

The private rented sector (PRS) scheme finds private landlords who are able to let their properties to Supporting Herts Service Users who would otherwise be homeless due to limited appropriate move-on.

The County Council has had a contract with Supporting Herts for the provision of an abstinence-based housing support service since 2014. A new contract is needed to ensure that the core service continues until March 2019, when the entirety of drug and alcohol treatment service provision will be re-specified and re-procured.

The provider has made a number of adjustments to the way it delivers services, which has enabled savings to be made in both 2017/18 and 2018/19. As a result, the contract is worth £469,000 in 2017/18 and £439,000 in 2018/19.

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3. Alternative options considered and rejected ²

The Public Health Service has considered not awarding the contract. However, this was rejected because the scale of change required would impact negatively on service users.

Any other options to consider?

4. Consultation

(a) Comments of Executive Member ^{3 4}

Supportive, no specific comments

(b) Comments of other consultees ⁵

5. Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.

Signed: .. 

Title:Director of Public HHealth..... Date: ...6 December 2017

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6. Copies of agreed document to:

- All consultees
- Chairman, and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- hard & electronic copy (for public inspection both at County Hall and on Hertsdirect) Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.

¹ for guidance see Chief Legal Officer's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ record any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member consulted. If an Executive Member declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from the Chief Legal Officer

⁴ If the matter has general significance for the Council and/or is, or is likely to be, controversial, then the officer shall consult the appropriate Executive Member before proceeding. In some cases it will be necessary to consult more than one Executive Member, and in some cases the Leader of the Council will need to be consulted

⁵ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.

