

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Sub Committee	20 th February 2023
Subject: Commissioning Update and Departmental Contracts Register	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of funding?	N/A
Has this funding source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Clare Chamberlain, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: John Barker, Commissioning Manager – Homelessness & Rough Sleeping	

Summary

This report provides Members with details of the current activity, and multi-stream initiatives currently in place and planned to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in the City of London and highlights the partnerships between City departments to ensure services are mobilised and monitored to succeed.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report and the presentation as details of the new commissioning arrangement, current and planned services and activity.

Main Report

Background

1. DCCS Commissioning has added a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Commissioning Manager to its team compliment. Part funded by the Rough Sleeper Initiative this is a new role, focussing on the extensive and diverse services the City of London has in place or planned to assist homeless households and vulnerable adults to move towards a settled lifestyle and independence. The role works in close partnership with the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Service.

2. The Commissioning Team manages all elements of the commissioning cycle, including the analysis, planning, implementing and reviewing of services.
3. The team is responsible for the completion and management of sourcing plans, commissioning timelines and maintaining the service's contracts register. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Commissioning Manager looks after the Commissioning Process and Procurement compliance for HRS services and in doing so seeks to secure effective services and cost efficiency for the City of London Corporation and those who use and receive its services.
4. Within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping commissioning cluster there are c. 30 contracted services at an annual value of c. £4.5m

Commissioned Services

5. This section provides highlights of the current activity and priorities for the Commissioning Team in relation to Homelessness & Rough Sleeping.
6. The funding regimes differ for a number of the services. We currently fall under a three year funding period of the Governments Rough Sleeper Initiative that has been running year on year since 2018. This funding stream has allowed the City to enhance some existing services as well as providing some additional support and engagement services to improve the offer to clients.

Accommodation Based Support Projects

7. The Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Service currently offers a Supported Housing Pathway made up of the commissioned services as outlined in the following table:

Service	Description	Procurement Method
Grange Road High Support Hostel	High (24 hour) Support Project spread over Hostel and "Bedsit" Annexe Rooms.	Competitive Tender Process
Crimscott Street	Medium Supported Housing	Competitive Tender Process
City Inn Express	24 Hour cover for those experiencing rough sleeping coming direct from the streets	Non-Compliant Waiver
The Lodges	Spread over 2 locations, B&B Style Safe Accommodation for older entrenched clients	Grant Funding
The Bridge Hotel	Emergency Accommodation	Exemption Code
Great Guildford Street	Satellite bedspaces	Non-Compliant Waiver
The Dellow	Satellite bedspaces	SLA – LB Tower Hamlets

Anchor House Assessment	Satellite bedspaces	Non-Compliant Waiver
Edward Alsop Court	Satellite bedspaces	SLA - Westminster
Anchor House Complex	Satellite bedspaces	Non-Compliant Waiver
Mare Street	Satellite bedspaces	SLA - Hackney

8. Each of these services is commissioned under contract or via a Service Level Agreement with the host borough. Due to the extreme difficulty in sourcing appropriate accommodation within the boundaries of the City of London, it is necessary for the City to form agreements with neighbouring and other local boroughs and in turn putting in place agreements and understandings to ensure that the clients under the care of the City get an equitable service locally from such agencies as substance use, social care and community mental health teams and this forms part of the arrangements and discussions when commissioning takes place.
9. All the projects / services outlined above, procured under non-compliant waivers or by grant, are in the process of re-procurement under a compliant process to ensure market competition, or are to be ended following the Commissioning and procurement of new services.
10. The High Support Hostel, at Grange Road (SE1) is the latest pathway project to open and will allow the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Team to centralise its clients' placements and in turn lead to the winding down of some of the Satellite Bed spaces that will no longer be needed.
11. The City also commissions a number of services targeted at working with those actively sleeping out in the square mile.

Outreach and Street Services

Service	Description
City Outreach	Service that works with Street Homeless individuals sleeping out in the City of London. Provides support direct and on the streets as well as a daily presence to identify any individual sleeping out at the earliest opportunity. Front line service that provides our local and national data on rough sleeping in the City of London
Tri Borough Navigators	Commissioned by London Borough of Tower Hamlets and working across City of London, Tower Hamlets and Hackney, this team works with those sleeping out that have the most complex issues and whom have been sleeping out the longest of for the most number of instances.

MIST	Peripatetic support service for City rough sleepers that focuses on providing in reach support to stabilise individuals whilst in emergency accommodation as a rapid off the streets offer.
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12. To complement all of the above services, and to give each client the best chance of progressing into independence and a settled way of life, the City also commission a number of complimentary services, aimed at improving the life opportunities of our clients

Additional Services

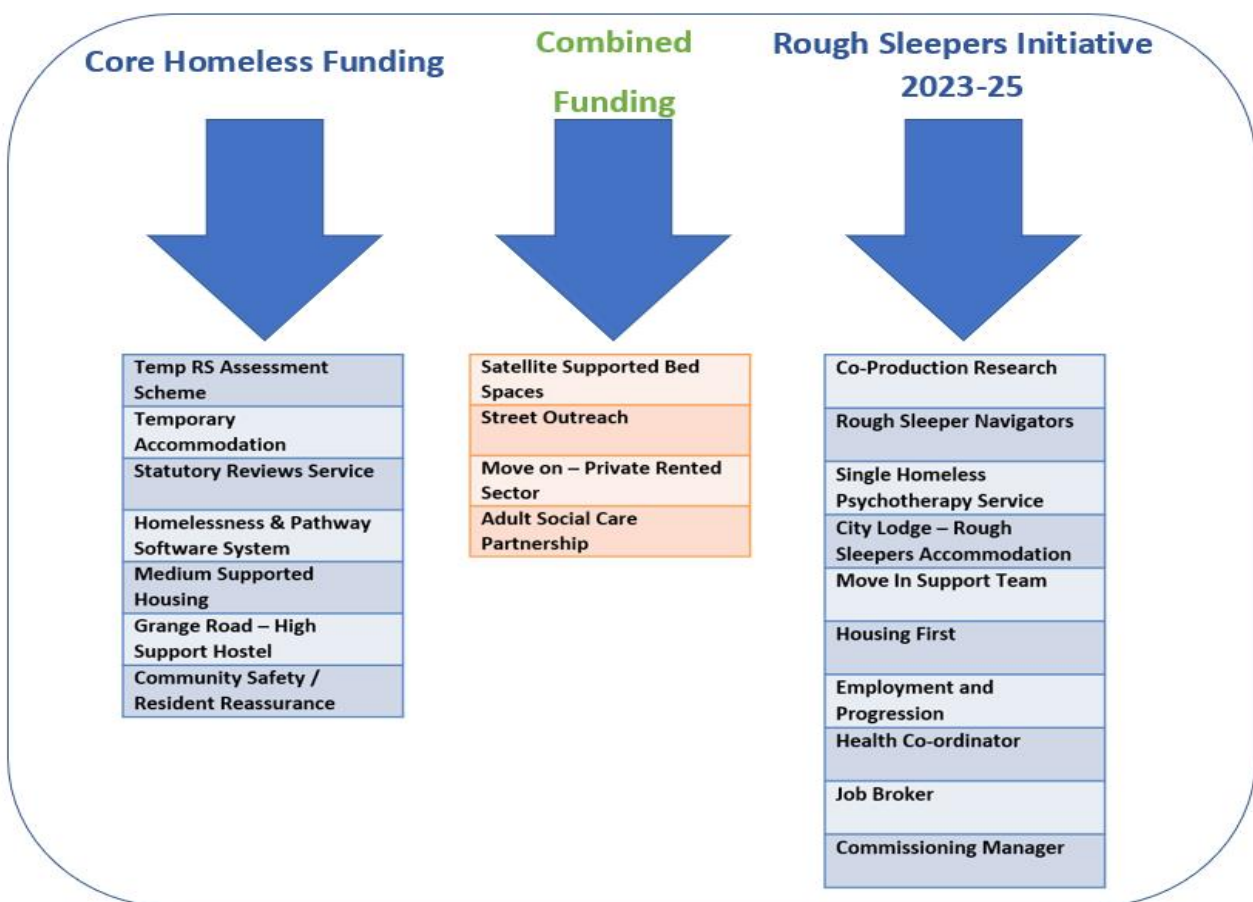
Service	Description
Private Rented Sector Move on Schemes (x3)	Schemes to facilitate move on from homelessness into private rented accommodation, by working within the Landlord market and providing resettlement support to clients.
Tri Borough Psychotherapy Service	Improves access to psychotherapeutic interventions to City of London clients experiencing homelessness, commissioned alongside LB Tower Hamlets and Hackney
Employment & Progression Service	Mobilising in January 2023, this service will assist our service users within the wide HRS pathway into employment and with the steps needed to progress towards it. This service also promotes peer mentoring and employs and deploys a number of current and ex service users as advisors
Housing First	Currently a joint scheme with LB Hackney, this service provides a direct route to housing as opposed to traditional “treatment first” schemes.
Co-Production Research Project	Following on from the learning of the “City Voices” report. This current project is researching with our service users and providers what the next steps of Co-production in our services can be.

Services to Start 23/24

Service	Description
Rough Sleeper Assessment Centre	City based 14 bed short term accommodation project that will provide immediate access from the streets and into a credible resettlement offer.
City Lodges	Current funding is limited to a small grant from the City of London contributing to running costs. The City of London and City of Westminster will enter into a joint Commissioning relationship with this project with a view to competitive tendering in 2025.
Co-Production	Following on from the ongoing Co-Production research the City intends to design and commission a service that will give our clients a voice and input into what our future services look like

Employment Broker	To work in alignment with the Employment and Progression Service, the Job Broker will source employment opportunities for our clients.
Housing First	The city intends to move away from the jointly commissioned service with Hackney into a unilaterally commissioned service allowing us to design to our needs.
Temporary and Emergency Accommodation Framework	To simplify the procurement of emergency and temporary accommodation for homeless households the City will seek to develop a framework of quality accommodation providers.

13. Diagram 1: Funding Streams



Funding Opportunities

14. Within Homelessness and Rough Sleeping and Commissioning, we will continue to look for funding opportunities both London wide and National that can help us improve our offer to homeless individuals in the City of London and to innovate as best we can to provide successful provision.

The Market

15. For Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Commissioning there are provider markets that involve interesting crossover of priorities and specialisms. The specialist homelessness accommodation / support market contains around 20 differing providers of varying size working across the capital as expert practitioners in homelessness. Among these providers there is often an enhanced focus on specific complimentary areas e.g. a number may focus most of their services on homeless clients with substance use issues, others may compliment their services with a strong focus on employment or other areas. There is then cross over with other markets, such as mental health service providers with a strong focus on Client Empowerment and User involvement or employment services that offer bespoke advice for homeless clients. This helps the City attract a diverse range of providers when putting together tender opportunities for services.

Commissioning Quality

16. For each contract that we commission, we ensure that Risk, Data Compliance, Equalities, Strategic Relevance, Value for Money, Social Value, Technical Expertise and Innovation are part of the evaluation framework, to ensure that any provider contracting with the City of London reaches a high standard. Equally we monitor the performance of our contracts on the same basis and do not just focus on the outcomes for our clients, but also the wellbeing, motivation and satisfaction of those individuals staffing our services.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

17. The Commissioning Team's sourcing plans and work plan are centred around the delivery of the Corporate Plan and Departmental Business Plan objectives, most notably the aim to 'Contribute to a flourishing society'.

Financial implications

18. The Commissioning Team's work will continue to focus on delivering value for money and savings within the department's budget in the financial year 2022/23.

Resource implications

19. Not applicable.

Legal implications

20. Not applicable.

Risk implications

21. Not applicable.

Equalities implications

22. Equalities considerations are included throughout the commissioning and management of services. Providers are required to report on the service's key performance indicators and assess the take-up and use of services from target groups.

Climate implications

23. Not applicable.

Security implications

24. Not applicable.

Conclusion

25. The Commissioning Team continues to work in close partnership with the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Service and is prioritising ensuring procurement compliance for existing projects as well as commissioning the new innovative services planned.

Appendices

- PowerPoint Presentation HRS Commissioning 20022023

John Barker

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Commissioning and Partnerships

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