

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet Member(s) for Homes and Neighbourhood, Health and Social Care jointly with Director, Adult Social Care



July 2019

Subject: MHCLG RAPID REHOUSING PATHWAY FUNDING AWARD

Report of: Kalvinder Kohli - Head of Service Commissioning, Prevention and Community Assets

Relevant Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Sharon Thompson - Homes and Neighbourhoods
Cllr Paulette Hamilton - Health and Social Care

Relevant O &S Chair(s): Cllr Penny Holbrook – Housing and Neighbourhoods
Cllr Rob Pocock – Health & Social Care

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference:		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 In March 2019, approval to bid for a funding opportunity via MHCLG was jointly agreed by the Cabinet Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods and the Director of Adult Social Care.

- 1.2 The funding opportunity was specific to a 12 month pilot program, delivering a rapid rehousing pathway for two specific cohorts of rough sleepers within Birmingham.
- 1.3 The first cohort-entrenched rough sleepers 35-55 years old.
- 1.4 The second cohort, young people under the age of 25.
- 1.5 The bid submission (**Appendix A**) sets out Birmingham's commitment to oversee the appointment of 4 specialist navigators, via existing commissioned service providers, who will act as single points of contact for eligible service recipients, ensuring that pathway plans into sustainable housing are person centred and robustly supported.
- 1.6 Birmingham's funding application has been approved with an initial award of £185,500.
- 1.7 Further negotiations have secured an additional £25,000 in order to secure a part-time administration/co-ordinator. This allocation is specific to provision of officer time within the Adult Social Care Directorate.
- 1.8 The additional funding component has now taken the award over the £200,000 threshold-thus requiring joint Cabinet Member/Chief Officer approval to accept the offer.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Accept the funding offer of £210,500 and deliver a rapid rehousing pilot program as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (**Appendix B**).

3 Background

- 3.1 This funding stream supports the delivery of the National Rough Sleeper Strategy (August 2018). £100 million is available nationally for local authorities to bid. The funding is released through a staged process.
- 3.2 Previous funding streams include rough sleeper initiative funds.
- 3.3 The funding award will complement the existing rough sleeper initiatives in the city.
- 3.4 Birmingham has a significant number of entrenched rough sleepers, with a cohort of around 60 individual's regularly sleeping rough. Many of whom have multiple and complex needs.
- 3.5 Birmingham also has a small cohort of younger people under the age of 25 who are either rough sleeping on a regular basis or have a strong trajectory towards the streets.
- 3.6 The younger cohort are typically drawn to the city centre in order to engage in begging activity, which in turn often funds the purchase of illicit substances, such as synthetic cannabinoids, heroin and crack cocaine. It is also reported that consumption of strong alcohol is a significant problem.
- 3.7 The Rapid Rehousing Pathway pilot program has provision for a specialist young person navigator with expertise in breaking the cycle of addiction within younger cohorts.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 Option 1 - Reject the funding and rely on existing provision to target the needs of those identified within the pilot.
- 4.2 Option 2 (preferred option) - Accept the funding of £210,500 and pilot a range of bespoke interventions that will work with and complement existing service provision.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Not applicable

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 Progress of the pilot program will be closely monitored by MHCLG and the Assistant Director, Adult Social Care Directorate.

7 Compliance Issues:

Monthly meetings with MHCLG will ensure compliance with the funding conditions as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding.

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

- Health and Well-Being Strategy 2017+
- Homeless Prevention Strategy 2017+
- Financial Inclusion Strategy 2016+

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 There will be a requirement under the Data Protection Act 2018 to ensure that there is a data sharing protocol between parties and that there is informed consent from the beneficiaries to share their personal details.
- 7.2.2 Section 179 Housing Act 1996 places a duty on the local housing authority to provide an advisory service in respect of homelessness, to include the provision of information and advice on securing accommodation when homeless, the rights of persons who are homeless and any help that is available from the authority or others and how to access that help.

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 The applicable funding award is 100% with no match fund requirements.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

- 7.4.1 Not applicable

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

7.5.1 Delivery of the pilot program will impinge on officer time. £25,000 has been awarded by way of mitigation.

7.5.1 Adult Social Care Finance Department will be required to administer the funding award.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

7.6.1 Due regard to the public sector equality duty and respect for human rights will be fully observed any potential impacts that emerge during the course of the pilot program will be monitored and mitigated inherently within the process and managed via risk management processes

8 Appendices

Appendix A - Rapid Rehousing Bid Application

Appendix B – Rapid Rehousing Pathway Memorandum of Understanding

9 Background Documents

9.1 National Rough Sleeper Strategy (August 2018).