

<b>Key Decision Required:</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>In the Forward Plan:</b>	<b>NO</b>
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## **CORPORATE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS AND DELIVERY)**

**29 NOVEMBER 2023**

### **A) ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL PREVENTION AND MOVE ON FUNDING FOR 2023/24**

(Report prepared by Emma Norton)

#### **PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION**

##### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To obtain approval from the Corporate Director (Operations and Delivery) to the acceptance of additional funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Rough Sleeper Initiative and to the proposals for spending this.

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In September 2023, the Government announced an additional allocation of funding from the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI 22-25) to local authorities who had been facing the greatest pressures in rough sleeping over the last 12 months.

In October 2023, the Council was informed that it had been allocated £24,044 Prevention and Move On funding for 2023/24, conditional upon the Council working with its DLUHC Rough Sleeper Adviser to agree the proposed delivery plan.

This plan was provisionally approved on 27 October 2023 and it provides for the following:

- Designation of one property from within the Council's housing stock as available accommodation for rough sleepers.
- Our existing contract for Homeless Early Intervention and Support Services to be extended by increasing those services from 3.5 days per week to 5 days per week only

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following agreement at Management Team on 21 November 2023, the Corporate Director (Operations and Delivery):

- a) Accepts the allocation of additional funding of £24,044.
- b) Agrees to the designation of one property from within the Council's housing stock as available accommodation for rough sleepers.
- c) Agrees to the variation of the Council's existing contract with Anglia Care Trust for Early Intervention and Support Services, as set out in this report.

## PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

### DELIVERING PRIORITIES

These actions would contribute to the following priorities in the Council's emerging Corporate Plan:

- Pride in our area and services to residents
- Raising aspirations and creating opportunities
- Working with partners to improve quality of life

### FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

This funding has been allocated on an analysis of rough sleeping pressures, based on an assessment of DLUHC most recent management information of rough sleeping levels across England.

Any funding is to be committed for spend in the current financial year 2023/24.

The Council has not had to submit a bid to access this funding but was required to develop a plan with their Rough Sleeping Adviser and agree an approach for effective delivery and monitoring outcomes.

Funding is being made available as a separate payment outside the 6-monthly tranche payments for RSI in winter 2023.

The Council is not being asked to formally report on the specific breakdown of services funded via this uplift. However, in its January 2024 quarterly report, it will be required to inform DLUHC of the number of beds and staff the funding has provided.

Anglia Care Trust have confirmed their ability to provide the additional resources required to support the existing contract that the Council has with them.

No other risks have been identified.

### LEGAL

The funding will be provided in accordance with the general conditions and principles of the Council's original RSI 2022-25 allocation and the conditions associated with grants paid under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

The decision to accept the Rough Sleeper Funding and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding and to award the contract to Anglia Care Trust was published on the Council's website on 28 September 2022.

[Decision - Acceptance of Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding, entering into a memorandum of understanding and Award of Contract \(tendringdc.gov.uk\)](#)

### OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of Crime and Disorder, Equality and Diversity, Health Inequalities, Consultation/Public Engagement and Wards; and any significant issues are set out below.

None

**Ward**

## PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### BACKGROUND

In September 2023, the Government announced an additional allocation of £34.6m through the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI22-25) to local authorities who had been facing the greatest pressures in rough sleeping over the last 12 months. Following feedback from local authorities, a further uplift of £13.4m for 2023/24 was subsequently announced.

DLUHC approved this funding with the objective of targeting resources at freeing up capacity in off-street accommodation, supporting those recently accommodated to move on to independent housing and preventing a return to the streets by those recently accommodated.

Each local authority qualifying for the uplift received written confirmation detailing the level of their funding for 2023/24, based upon a DLUHC assessment of the most recent management information of rough sleeping levels across England.

In October 2023, the Council was informed that it had been allocated £24,044 Prevention and Move On funding for 2023/24, conditional upon the Council working with its DLUHC Rough Sleeper Adviser to agree the proposed delivery plan.

This plan was provisionally approved on 27 October 2023 and it provides for the following:

- Designation of one property from within the Council's housing stock as available accommodation for rough sleepers.

A studio flat within the Clacton area, that has previously been hard to let, has been identified for this purpose. It is proposed that this will be furnished and equipped for use with these costs and the weekly rent funded from this allocation.

- Variation of our existing contract for Homeless Early Intervention and Support Services

The Council currently has a three-year contract with Anglia Care Trust for the provision of Homeless Early Intervention and Support Services. This was entered into in September 2022, following a tender exercise, and using funding previously awarded from the Rough Sleeper Initiative as part of a collaborative bid by Essex County Council on behalf of Essex authorities

The purpose of this contract is:

- To provide intensive support to people sleeping rough along with people who are 'sofa surfing' because they could potentially be at risk of sleeping rough.
- To provide intensive support to clients who are sleeping rough in order to find accommodation in the Tendring area if this is their home area, or help in locating clients back to their home area if it is outside of our District.
- To support and engage the clients with the local community and employment opportunities, and support them to access benefits and medical services along with any other services that they need.
- If appropriate, to attend any appointments with them and provide support around these.

- To be a positive influence and support for the clients.
- To assist with deposits and rent in advance where there is a need to assist in securing suitable accommodation. Separate funds will be provided for this from a Discretionary Housing Payment or Homeless Prevention Fund, made available from the Housing Solutions Team.
- To continue to work with the clients for a period sufficiently long enough to settle them into their new homes and ensure all services/utilities/furniture, etc. are in place.

This contract currently provides for a dedicated support worker for 3.5 days a week (0.7 FTE) who works with individuals and liaises with the Housing Solutions team daily, as well as housing providers, landlords and other agencies in order to relieve and prevent homelessness. The annual cost of this contract is £30,128.00

Following notification of the additional funding allocation, initial discussions took place with Anglia Care Trust and they have confirmed that they have the resource to increase the provision of this outreach service from 3.5 days to 5 days a week for the remainder of this financial year. This will cost in the region of £5,000.00 for this period.

Anglia Care Trust have also indicated that they would be able to provide an additional outreach support worker for the same duration of time,, i.e. until the end of the financial year and with the hours provided tailored to the remaining available funding from the allocation. Whilst specific outcomes have yet to be formally agreed, the focus of this worker would be the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping among single people who are sofa surfing, those facing parental evictions as well as those being discharged from hospital and released from prison.

.Anglia Care Trust have advised that the above arrangements could commence after a two week notice period and continue until the end of the current financial year and this report is therefore to approve and confirm the variation to the existing contract with Anglia Care Trust to enable these additional arrangements to commence as soon as possible.

#### **FURTHER HEADINGS RELEVANT TO THE REPORT**

None

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION**

None

#### **APPENDICES**

None