

## Housing Related Support; Update

To: Children and Young People's Committee

Meeting Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

From: Executive Director: People and Communities

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Key decision: No

Outcome: To provide Committee with an update on the Housing Related Support (HRS) Review and redesign work.

To note - A recommendation to approve the HRS strategy and savings is going to the Adults Committee on 10 December 2020. The savings decision is being put to Adults Committee as the budget lines for HRS sit within the Adult Social Care budgets.

Recommendation: Committee is being asked to;

a) Note and comment on the update provided

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 Housing Related Support (HRS) services provide dedicated support staff who are able to deliver specialist support to individuals to enable them to develop independent living skills and maintain their accommodation. The support provided is tailored to meet the specific needs of each person with key examples including support to access benefit and/or manage issues such as addiction, mental health issues and emotional wellbeing.

- 1.2 Costs relating to accommodation, such as rent and service charges, are not covered by this funding.
- 1.3 The services do not deliver any statutory homelessness function. The statutory duty for homelessness sits with the District Councils.
- 1.4 A review of Housing Related Support (HRS) services was completed in 2018. Two of the key recommendations from this this were the development of a new Housing Related Support Strategy, and a need to consider redesigning current support services for homeless young people and adults.
- 1.5 The County had also aligned £680k worth of savings against Housing Related Support services.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 The draft HRS strategy was completed in early June 2020 and has been through an extensive consultation process with a wide range of providers, partners and stakeholders. This included existing HRS providers, local Housing Authorities, statutory services and local voluntary and charitable organisations. The consultation period ran from 23<sup>rd</sup> July until 28<sup>th</sup> August.
- 2.2 Consultation feedback has been incorporated into the final draft of the Strategy, which is appended at Appendix A. A summary of the consultation feedback can also be found at Appendix B.
- 2.3 The draft strategy sets out our vision for HRS services, identifies the commissioning priorities for 2020 – 2022 and outlines the commissioning approach and principles that will underpin delivery.
- 2.4 The Strategy takes account of the national and local strategic context and has been informed by the findings of the 2018 Review of HRS services and research undertaken by arc4 in 2019/20.
- 2.5 The overarching vision of the strategy is *‘To provide accessible, good quality and cost effective housing-related support for people that promotes independence, social inclusion, complements other services and reduces or prevents the need for access to crisis and high cost statutory services.*
- 2.6 The key HRS commissioning priorities identified for 2020 to 2022 are focussed on ensuring that services commissioned to support homeless adults, rough sleepers, offenders and young people at risk of homelessness are able to evolve to enable them to continue to effectively meet the needs of current and future customers.
- 2.7 The Strategy will be presented to Adults Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> December for approval and adoption.

## HRS Savings:

- 2.8 £456k of the aligned savings have been delivered to date, and the expectation was that the remaining balance would be realised through the redesign of services.
- 2.9 However, since that decision was made, the social, political and financial climate has altered drastically and in the wake of Covid 19, homelessness, particularly street homelessness, has become an even more prominent issue both locally and nationally. This is in part due to the heightened public health risk linked to homelessness.
- 2.10 There is still a clear need to reshape and re-design services for homeless adults and young people, and Covid 19 has highlighted some real opportunities to deliver services differently going forward.
- 2.11 However, given the current climate, and the impact that Covid 19 has had on the homelessness sector, the County Council needs to reconsider whether this is also the right time to pursue the savings linked to this redesign work. This is something which will also be discussed at Adults Committee in December, where a recommendation will be made to support the removal of the remaining saving from the Adults services budget.

## HRS Redesign:

- 2.12 In redesigning services, the intention is to move away from a model of support which is predominantly hostel focussed approach, towards more flexible commissioning of a mix of provision that is better able to meet a range of support needs, is reflective of other established models of good practice and will enable us to meet some of the gaps in provision that have been identified. For example the need for step-down accommodation and services that can support those with more complex needs.
- 2.13 The Covid 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our timescales for this work, but progress to date includes;
- A draft model for young person's services in Cambridge City has been developed in partnership with key partners and existing service providers
  - Feedback has been sought from young people on the draft Cambridge model
  - A Soft Market Testing exercise has been undertaken to gather views from the current and wider market
  - Using Feedback from the Soft Market Testing and the Cambridge redesign process work, initial outline models have been drafted for other areas
  - All of the draft models have been shared with the HRS Member Reference Group
  - A revised Procurement timetable has been developed to take account of the Covid 19 impacts, and the start date for new contracts has been moved back to January 2022.
- 2.14 Next steps in the redesign will be
- Working up more detailed models for each area
  - Inviting partners and clients to feedback on the models
  - A market engagement event scheduled early next year to further engage with the market
  - Development of specifications

- Setting out the Procurement approach for young person's housing related support services so that this can be brought to CYP Committee approval in January 202 for approval

### 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

- 3.1 A good quality of life for everyone  
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.2 Thriving places for people to live  
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children  
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050  
There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 4. Significant Implications

- 4.1 Resource Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement  
There are no significant implications within this category.
- 4.7 Public Health Implications  
There are no significant implications within this category.

### 5.0 Source Documents

- 5.1 None.

### 6.0 Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – Draft HRS Strategy

6.2 Appendix B - Consultation responses

6.3 Accessible versions of the appendices are available on request from  
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