

EXECUTIVE DECISION REPORT

Spending Review Programme 4 - 2019/20
Ceasing Funding for the
Independent Living Floating Support Service

Decision to be taken by: Assistant City Mayor, Adult
Social Care and Wellbeing

Decision to be taken on: 1 August 2018

Lead director: Tracie Rees

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Caroline Ryan
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- Report version number: 3

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek agreement to cease funding for the Independent Living Floating Support service with effect from 31 October 2018, on the basis as outlined in the report.
- 1.2 The proposals would secure savings of £545k that will contribute to the Council's Spending Review Programme 4, which requires Adult Social Care to deliver savings of £5.5m for 2019/20

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Independent Living Floating Support (ILFS) service provides support to non-local authority tenants, who are below the threshold for Adult Social Care (ASC) statutory support.
- 2.2 An internal staff team determine if an individual fulfils the required criteria and if appropriate they will refer to an external organisation to provide the support. Creative Support Ltd are contracted to provide up to 485 support hours per week, for up to 160 service users at any one time, subject to a maximum of 12 weeks support per service user.
- 2.3 The internal team cost £160k and the annual contract value with Creative Support is £385kpa making a total service cost of £545k. The contract is due to expire on 31.3.2020. Originally, it was envisaged that the council would seek to cease the contract on 31.3.2019. However, Creative Support have asked if the Council will accept an early termination notice to expire on 31.10.2018, due to low number of referrals, which has made the contract unviable for them to continue to deliver.
- 2.4 For 2017/18 there was an under-spend of £265k on the contract due to the low number of referrals / demand being lower than expected. The take up for 2018/19 is expected to be even lower and therefore under the circumstance the Council is in agreement to the early termination of the contract in the event of the proposals being approved. The internal team will be made redundant in line with the Council's Redundancy Policy.
- 2.5 The impact of withdrawing the service for those using it, is likely to be minimal given the short-term nature of support (up to 12 weeks). It is important to note that the nature of the current service/support is such that it would have only offered a short-term intervention providing guidance and support to reduce that risk.
- 2.6 If the proposal is approved and the contract is to end on 31.10.2018, the Council will stop making any further referrals and will work with Creative

Support to ensure existing cases are concluded to a satisfactory outcome.

- 2.7 However, if any new individual requires support due to their vulnerability, the Enablement service, based within ASC would provide short term support. Local authority tenants will still be able to access the STAR service, which is specifically for City Council tenants.
- 2.8 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is detailed at Appendix 1

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To cease for the funding for the Independent Living Floating Support service with effect from 31 October 2018, on the basis as outlined in the report.
- 3.2 To note the report was shared with the ASC Scrutiny Commission on 19th June, who were supportive of the proposal.

4. Report

- 4.1 Adult Social Care (ASC) is required to deliver savings of £5.5m for 2019/20 to contribute towards the Council's Spending Review Programme 4. Therefore, it is proposed to cease the Independent Living Floating Support (ILFS) service with effect from 31.10.2018. Ending the service will save £545K per annum.
- 4.2 ILS provides up to 12 weeks support to non-local authority tenants, who are below the threshold for ASC statutory support. The support includes, money management, developing domestic and social skills.
- 4.3 There is a small internal staff team of 5 FTE (costing £160kpa) who apply a set criteria to any potential cases. If an individual is deemed to need support, goals are set and a referral is made to an external organisation who provide the support.
- 4.4 The external organisation is Creative Support Ltd, a large national company, who are contracted to provide up to 485 support hours per week, for up to 160 service users at any one time, for up to 12 weeks.
- 4.5 If the service is ended and individuals require support due to their vulnerability, the Enablement service, based within ASC would provide short term support. Local authority tenants could still access the STAR service.
- 4.6 If the proposal is agreed then the Council would be required to give formal 3 months' notice in writing to Creative Support to end the contract. However, Creative Support have already advised the Council that if the proposal is approved, they would like to end the contract on 31.10.2018 (rather than the 31.3.2019 as originally envisaged) as the lack of referrals / demand for the service has made the situation financially unviable for their organisation.

- 4.7 There are currently 5 FTE internal posts (total cost £160k) supporting this service. 1 post is vacant, but a formal redundancy/redeployment consultation exercise will be required with the existing 4 members of staff.
- 4.8 Consideration has been given to other options in achieving the saving including:
- Continue to deliver the service at its current levels
 - Negotiate reducing the level of funding with the existing provider
 - Procure a new contract at a reduced funding level
- 4.9 However, none of these options are considered viable because we would not make the required savings.

5. Scrutiny

- 5.1 The report was presented at the ASC Scrutiny Commissioning meeting on 19th June, and the members were supportive of the proposal.

6. Financial, legal and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

- 6.1.1 If this proposal goes ahead following it will contribute £545k pa towards the £5.5m spending review four savings target for ASC. The contract notice period and organisational review timetable means that savings will be accrued in full from April 2019 as required.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance

6.2 Legal implications

- 6.2.1 Not for Publication: Exempt information under Schedule 12A of Local Government 1972. Para 5) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

6.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

- 6.3.1 The existing ILS service will be generating carbon emissions through the travel involved in visiting the clients. The recommended option to cease the service, and to pick up any tenancy related support requirements through Enablement would reduce the travel and resulting carbon emissions.

Duncan Bell, Senior Environmental Consultant. Ext. 37 2249

6.4 Equalities Implications

- 6.4.1 When making decisions, the Council must comply with the Public-Sector Equality Duty (PSED) (Equality Act 2010) by paying due regard, when carrying out their functions, to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not.
- 6.4.2 Decision makers need to be clear about any equalities implications of the proposed options by examining the likely impact on those who may be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.
- 6.4.3 Protected groups under the Equality Act are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation and marriage and civil partnership.
- 6.4.4 If the proposal is ultimately agreed, an organisational review equality impact assessment will need to be carried out for the council staff who would be made redundant under the proposal.
- 6.4.5 An equality impact assessment of the proposal has been carried out. The main findings of which, are that a decision to end funding will impact on those using the service. Those who currently use the service will have a wide range of, and possibly multiple, protected characteristics including age and disability. As such, it is important that the consideration of equalities implications influences decision making from an early stage and throughout the process.
- 6.4.6 Should the proposal be taken forward, the Equality Impact Assessment findings should continue to be used as a tool to aid consideration around whether we are meeting the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 6.4.7 If the service is ended and individuals require support due to their vulnerability, the Enablement service, based within ASC would provide short term support. A commitment has been made to signpost people to other services that can offer advice, support and information.

Sukhi Biring/Surinder Singh, Equalities Officers Tel 37 4175 /4148

7 Background information and other papers

None

8. Summary of appendices

Appendix 1 Service Change EIA template Floating Support Final

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

Yes

10. If a key decision please explain reason

The proposals would identify revenue budget savings of £545k that will contribute to the Council’s Spending Review Programme 4.