

Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Thursday, 17 March 2016

Extension of Contracts with Shakti and Edinburgh Women's Aid

Item number	7.23
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive Summary

This report is to request approval for a 19 month extension to the contracts with Edinburgh Women's Aid and Shakti. There is a wider review of domestic abuse services (value approximately £3 million) which will conclude in November 2017. This extension request will allow Shakti and Edinburgh Women's Aid to be included in that review leading to a redesign of services and a new procurement process.

Links

Coalition pledges	P1
Council priorities	CO1-CO6
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2, SO3

Extension of Edinburgh Young Carers Contract

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Resource Committee approve the extension of the contracts with Edinburgh Women's Aid and Shakti for the 19 month period from 1 April 2016 to 1 November 2017.

2. Background

- 2.1 Shakti and Edinburgh Women's Aid deliver services across the three directorates to vulnerable people who are the victim of domestic abuse and have been forced to leave their own homes.
- 2.2 The Council has initiated a wider review of domestic abuse services. The aim of the review is to develop a more coordinated community response to domestic abuse and to implement the principles outlined in the multi-agency domestic abuse policy, which was agreed by the Edinburgh Partnership and the City of Edinburgh Council in 2013.
- 2.3 The outcome of that review will provide clarity on the required specification of support services such as Shakti and Edinburgh women's Aid.

3. Main report

- 3.1 City of Edinburgh Council currently has 16 funding streams to 8 different domestic abuse service providers which total just under £1.7 million for 2015/16. These costs are expected to reduce to just under £1.4 million by 2017/18. Services are also supported by a range of funding streams; primarily the Scottish Government Violence Against Women Fund which comes to an end in April 2016.
- 3.2 City of Edinburgh Council provides a mixture of commissioned services, grant provision and statutory services which have been funded by Health and Social Care, Children and Families and Services for Communities. Current services include refuge, practical and emotional support to women and children, behaviour change programmes for perpetrators and specialist support for black minority ethnic women and women with complex needs.

- 3.3 Both statutory and specialist responses are essential, and there needs to be a choice and range of services. However, there is no clear pathway from identification of a victim of domestic abuse to provision of coordinated services, which are timely and identified by risk and need. Service redesign would provide:
- 3.3.1 Development of a clear pathway from identified need to service provision
 - 3.3.2 Proportionate support at the right time, particularly including families in crisis and those who fail to meet the threshold for child or adult protection
 - 3.3.3 Less duplication and complexity of services and professionals
 - 3.3.4 Implementation of shared principles and ethos across services
 - 3.3.5 A focus on prevention and early intervention
 - 3.3.6 Clearer funding streams and outcomes framework
 - 3.3.7 Increased partnership working and less working in silos
 - 3.3.8 Improved services and reduced costs
 - 3.3.9 Greater cooperation between services
 - 3.3.10 Greater cooperation with specialist services including service that provide support with addictions and mental health
- 3.4 There is a project board in place, with Michelle Miller, Chief Social Work Officer, as the project sponsor, with representation from all directorates. Members for a checkpoint group have also been identified including a representative from EVOG.
- 3.5 There is a long history in Edinburgh of collaboration with both Edinburgh Women's Aid and Shakti and their input into the review and redesign of domestic abuse service is invaluable. Further, they will continue to offer an ongoing response to people who experience domestic abuse throughout the whole review

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Continuity of services to victims of domestic abuse and their children.
- 4.2 A new Service Specification is agreed through the process of the wider review of Domestic Abuse services and new contracted arrangements in place by 1 November 2017.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The full value of the waiver from 1 April 2016 to 1 November 2017 is £161,423. The breakdown of this across the two financial years and between the two organisations is outlined in the following table:

	16/17	17/18	Total
Edinburgh Women's Aid	63,959	37,309	101,268
Shakti	37,993	22,162	60,155
	101,951	59,471	161,423

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 These services form part of the council's response to incidences of domestic violence within Edinburgh communities. Not having them in place during the re-design process would place vulnerable families at significant risk. This would have reputation risks associated to it for the council.
- 6.2 In relation to procurement risk, the value of the extension is above the current threshold for regulated procurement; however as a 'social care' type service there is some discretion which permits the Council to decide how transparency is addressed. The risk of challenge to the 19 month extension is considered to be low.
- 6.3 The CSOs require that procurement of services above the value of £50,000 should be tendered; however the social care provision delivered is specialised and the development of a service specification through the wider review is critical to the identification of the future need for these services and to inform any procurement activity.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 The Council's approach to procurement of this service will have a direct impact on its ability to address the priority in the Community Plan, Strategic Priority 8, "reducing antisocial behaviour, violence and harm". As such final procurement of this service will be subject to an ongoing and full equality impact assessment.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There are no adverse environmental outcomes arising from this report

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The review of domestic abuse services will involve consultation and engagement with stakeholders as part of the coproduction process.

10. Background reading/external references

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Links

Coalition pledges

P1 – Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care

Council priorities

CO1 – Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed

CO2 – Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities

CO3 – Our children and young people in need, or with a disability, have improved life chances

CO4 – Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy

CO5 – Our children and young people are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities

CO6 – Our children and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality

Single Outcome Agreement

SO3 – Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential

Appendices