

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 20 May 2021

Award of contract: Support for People in Recovery from Drug and/or Alcohol Addiction

Routine	
Wards	All
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Resources Committee:
- 1.1.1 Approves the award of a contract for Support for People in Recovery from Drug and/or Alcohol Addiction to Cyrenians.
 - 1.1.2 Approves the commencement of the contract on 1st September 2021 for an initial period of 5 years with the option to extend for a further 3 years, with a total estimated value of £1.4million.

Judith Proctor

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Report

Award of Contract for Support for People in Recovery from Drug and/or Alcohol Addiction

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report seeks approval to award a contract to Cyrenians to deliver support for people in recovery from drug and/or alcohol addiction. The service is to commence on 1st September 2021 for an initial period of 5 years with the option to extend for a further 3 years, at an estimated total cost of £1.4million.

3. Background

- 3.1 Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership (EADP) oversees the development and implementation of an alcohol and drug strategy for the city. It is a partnership between the City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, the third sector and those with lived experience of addiction and recovery.
- 3.2 The Serenity café closed in 2018. This left a significant gap in the recovery orientated system of care which has been challenging to fill. In the period since the closure, the Council have worked with Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC) to gather the former users of Serenity café and other groups and to undertake a needs assessment to better describe the needs and expectations of the group.
- 3.3 After substantial consultation with the recovery community, EADP were seeking to create a service that would support the latter stages of people's recovery journey. This would be a community-based service, which is based in a single, focal building and which is led by the community (currently a board) which will deliver the following outcomes:
- 3.3.1 Reduced isolation and access to a mutually supportive community of people with a shared experience of addiction and recovery.
 - 3.3.2 Low threshold, normalised access to a safe space offering accessible leisure and social opportunities.
 - 3.3.3 Meaningful activity and skills development – elements of work training and personal development.

- 3.4 This commissioning intention was agreed with IJB and the Council is commissioning this service on their behalf

4. Main report

- 4.1 In early 2019, Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership provided funding for EVOC to carry out a needs assessment with the recovery community. The scope of the exercise was to explore ways that the recovery community can be effectively supported and identify the criteria for service development, particularly for those in or seeking long term, abstinent recovery. The exercise centred on consultation with the recovery community and concluded that the most desirable model of support was a single building operated in line with community development approaches.
- 4.2 The specification for the new service was further developed with the steering group consisting of users of Edinburgh Recovery Activities (ERA) (an interim project developed to provide support to the recovery community).
- 4.3 In January 2020 a Prior Information Notice (PIN) was published on Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) to invite providers with an interest to attend and discuss the support service for Edinburgh's recovery community.
- 4.4 The event was attended by 19 organisations on 12th February 2020, information was provided on the work and relationships achieved to date through Edinburgh Recovery Activities. The event was an opportunity to discuss achievements to date, the proposed service specification, the outcomes and the procurement process. The event enabled the Council to gain invaluable market research on location, contract length, approach to procurement to increase co development and reduce the tender cost pressures that can arise.
- 4.5 Upon completion of the co-production event feedback was fed into the procurement strategy. It was also noted the cost of writing a tender and therefore to reduce the cost and time it was agreed that a two-stage process with the option to negotiate would be best suited and a reduction to three providers moving to stage two. The length of the contract was also aligned to optimise rental agreements and agreed five years with the option to extend for three years.
- 4.6 A Contract Notice was published via PCS and the tender was run on PCS-tender.
- 4.7 As this is a Social Care service the tender was published in accordance with the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 with the Light Touch Regime applied.
- 4.8 The four tenders received were evaluated based on the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT), weighted 80/20 quality/price. Due to the nature of the tender and the vulnerable community group the quality provides for 80%. Details of the evaluation criteria can be found in appendix 1. The top three tenders were taken to the next stage.
- 4.9 To ensure tenders were considered by those who would use the service, the evaluation panel included professionals with lived experience, Council Officers and representatives of the recovery community ERA.

- 4.10 Stage two resulted in two responses and the tenders were evaluated on two quality elements, one by an evaluation panel based on written proposals and the other via presentation scored by the steering group made up of lived experience members. Both tenders came in within budget of £175,000 per annum for the 5 years as per the evaluation. Details of the evaluation criteria can be found in appendix 2.
- 4.11 Cyrenians achieved a total score of 86.95% and are recommended for award of contract.
- 4.12 As this is a building-based service The Scottish Government guidance for indoor gathering has an impact on the ability to run the community hub. The implications of the guidance mean that capacity to support people from a building base is greatly reduced in order to maintain physical distancing. Tenderer capacity to deliver during Covid-19 restrictions was addressed under business continuity questions.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Subject to approval, the services will commence on the 1st September, this will allow for start-up from award to 1st September 2021.
- 5.2 The contract will be handed over to the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership Contracts team and will be added to PCS tender for contract monitoring and management.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The contract value is £175,000 per annum and is fixed for the first 5 years. The value of the contract for the extension period will be discussed in year 4 however it is anticipated a total increase of £48,800 may apply for year 6,7 and 8 if the extension period is utilised and funding allows. If the budget cannot increase at this time the service will be adjusted to ensure it is delivered for £175,000.
- 6.2 The costs associated with procuring this contract are estimated to be between £20,001 and £35,000.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed and all recommendations have been addressed throughout the tender process.
- 7.2 No significant adverse environmental impacts are expected to arise from this contract.
- 7.3 This procurement has been taken forward in accordance with the Council's Sustainable Procurement Strategy, including the objectives of making procurement spend more accessible to local small businesses/third sector, improving Fair Work practices adopted by suppliers and increasing community benefits delivered by

suppliers. In connection with this, the tenderer confirmed a number of community benefits which will add value to their service and the community, Covid measures allowing. These included local volunteering opportunities, increased community revenue through project fundraising and a recruitment drive from unemployed backgrounds.

- 7.4 Cyrenians have confirmed that they pay the Scottish Living Wage and above and are a Scottish Living Wage Accredited provider.
- 7.5 Cyrenians provided evidence of Fair Work Practice in line with the Scottish Government Fair Work Practice Framework of effective voice, opportunity, security, fulfilment and respect.
- 7.6 The success of this contract will be measurable against Key Performance Indicators which are detailed in the Specification.

8. Background reading/external references

[National principles for sustainability payments to social care providers during COVID 19, COSLA](#)

[Guidance for financial support for social care providers during COVID 19](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Guidance on adult social care building-based day services](#)

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Summary of Tendering and Tender Evaluation Processes (stage one)

Appendix 2 - Summary of Tendering and Tender Evaluation Processes (stage two)

Appendix 1 - Summary of Tendering and Tender Evaluation Processes (stage one)

Contract	Support for People in Recovery from Drug and/or Alcohol Addiction	
Contract period (including any extensions)	1 st September 2021 to 31 st August 2026 with the option to extend for a further 3 years.	
Estimated contract value	£1,400,000 (Total including extensions)	
Procurement Route chosen	Light touch with negotiations.	
Tenders returned	4	
Price / Quality ratio	20/80	
Evaluation criteria and weightings	Area	Max Score
	Organisational Experience	20%
	Fair Working Practices	4%
	COMMUNITY BENEFITS	8%
	BUSINESS CONTINUTY	8%
	Sub Total	40%
	Collaborative/ Community led/ autonomy of the project	20%
	Sub Total	20%
	Outline plan	28%
	Implementation	12%
	Sub Total	40%
	Total	100%
	Weighted	80%
Evaluation Team	Evaluated by Commissioner and Professionals from EHSCP, NHS, Voluntary Sector, Edinburgh's recovery community Representative.	

Appendix 2 - Summary of Tendering and Tender Evaluation Processes (stage two)

Contract	Support for People in Recovery from Drug and/or Alcohol Addiction		
Contract period (including any extensions)	1 st September 2021 to 31 st August 2026 with the option to extend for a further 3 years.		
Estimated contract value	£1,400,000 (Total including extensions)		
Procurement Route chosen	Light touch with negotiations.		
Tenderers invited	3		
Tenders returned	2		
Recommended supplier	Cyrenians		
Price / Quality ratio	20/80		
Evaluation criteria and weightings		Max score	
	Presentation	Reasons/interest	7%
		Vision: overview of the proposed project	14%
		Project is owned by the community	14%
	Sub Total		35%
	1. Safe Space		6.9%
	2. Programme of Activities		4.6%
	3. Meaningful activity and employability development		4.6%
	4. Strong identity/owned by the community		4.6%
	5. Whole family support		4.6%
	6. Sustain recovery		4.6%
	7. Use of technology		2.3%
	Management, staffing, and infrastructure		6.4%
	Individual experience		3.7%
	Equalities		3.7%
	Sub Total		46%
	Implementation plan		19%
Sub Total		19%	
Total		100%	
Weighted		80%	
Evaluation Team	Evaluated by Commissioner and Professionals from EHSCP, Voluntary Sector, Edinburgh's recovery community representatives.		