

Report to	Councillor Bobby Feeley, Lead Member for Well-Being and Independence
Date of report	4 th August 2021
Report author	Liana Duffy, CSS Contracts & Commissioning Team Manager
Title	Procurement of new Early Intervention Project (Homelessness Prevention)

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report is to provide information on a proposal for a new homelessness early intervention project, with a request for approval to commence the procurement of this service.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. A decision is required on the tendering for a new homelessness early intervention project. The Commissioning Form (please see appendix 1) has already been approved by the relevant parties, in line with the Denbighshire Contract Procedure Rules.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The recommendations are for decisions set out below:

- 3.1. That the Lead Member approves the commencement of the procurement as set out in the Commissioning Form at Appendix 1.
- 3.2. That the Lead Member confirms they have read and taken into account the Well-Being Assessment (please see appendix 3 for the over-arching WIA for the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2021/22).

4. Report details

- 4.1. Early intervention must be a cornerstone of our approach to preventing homelessness. As captured in our Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2021/22, we want to develop our support offer around early intervention to prevent homelessness, so that we can identify and engage with people much earlier on to

prevent any risk factors/problems from escalating. This focused early intervention project will be a key part of this work.

4.2. We want this project to offer a robust early intervention model, which is assertive and proactive. We envisage that there will be two main 'strands' to this project (although we are interested in hearing proposals for other methods/models of delivery as part of the tender process). In brief these are:

4.2.1. Identifying individuals who may currently or in future be facing risk of homelessness, and offering rapid, practical early intervention guidance and support, to prevent problems escalating into risk of homelessness.

4.2.2. Raising awareness/educating within key settings around homelessness warning signs/risk factors, and practical prevention knowledge and skills.

4.3. A Wellbeing impact assessment has been completed for the over-arching Delivery Plan – please see appendix 3.

4.4. This contract will be fully funded by the Housing Support Grant, allocated by the Welsh Government.

4.5. We have estimated costs and value for money based on our HSG fulltime equivalent benchmark rate; however, value for money will be evaluated and can be negotiated further as part of the procurement exercise.

4.6. The contract would be for a period of three years, with the option to extend for a further two, subject to satisfactory performance, and continued funding and strategic relevance.

4.7. This will be a brand new contract, therefore there is no incumbent provider.

4.8. The service would be monitored throughout the year. The provider/providers will be expected to submit quarterly performance monitoring returns, and 6 monthly outcomes submissions in line with the HSG/Supporting People Outcomes Framework. The project will also have a number of bespoke KPIs, as set out in the project specification (please see appendix 2).

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

5.1. Housing: There will be a clear focus (and performance measures) around supporting people to avoid risk of homelessness.

5.2. Connected Communities: A key requirement for the service is that it will be accessible, including specific consideration and creativity when it comes to platforms used, settings engaged with, methods to identify and engage with individuals, and language used.

5.3. Resilient Communities: Building independence and resilience are key goals of this early intervention approach. Through a variety of ways it will seek to equip people

and communities with the knowledge and skills to both recognise and address risk factors/warning signs of homelessness. The ability to address issues much earlier on will help to prevent the need for more formal service intervention later on.

5.4. Environment: In terms of the project delivery, we have set out that we are interested in proposals around web/tech based platforms/solutions that could be used to deliver this project, reducing the need for travel. Additionally, Community Benefits must be delivered as part of this contract, and we have set out that we are particularly interested in proposals that will support DCC to achieve its Net Carbon Zero goal.

5.5. Young People: Young people 16+ and adults with children will be included within the direct support scope of this project. We expect that the education work will also benefit children and young people, with a focus on early intervention through awareness raising much earlier on, e.g. through engagement with schools and other education settings.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. This project will be wholly funded from the Denbighshire Housing Support Grant, provided by the Welsh Government. With its early intervention, preventative approach, we expect that the provision will reduce the impact on statutory services.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. The impact assessment for the over-arching HSG Delivery Plan scored 34 out of 36, giving 3 out of 4 stars. A positive impact was identified for all of the wellbeing goals.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. The specification has been developed following extensive consultation, including a targeted stakeholder survey and engagement sessions over Microsoft Teams, and a survey open to the full public via the DCC engagement portal. Responses included feedback from citizens and a wide variety of other key stakeholders. A meet the buyer event also took place in July 2021.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. The proposal is fully grant funded and the robust early intervention model will hopefully reduce the number of people who find themselves homeless which will also help manage the rising costs in this service in the future. On that basis the decision is fully supported.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1. A robust tendering process, including evaluation by a diverse panel (including members with lived experience of homelessness/risk of homelessness) will ensure as far as possible that we award this contract to the best provider/providers.
- 10.2. All Housing Support Grant funded projects are regularly monitored to ensure that any problems/risks can be identified and addressed as soon as possible. As a new project and model of delivery, we will work closely with the provider/providers to learn and develop best practice.
- 10.3. We build break clauses into all of our contracts, allowing us to terminate or amend the agreement (with appropriate notice periods) in the event of a contract breach, reduction in WG funding, or any other grounds that may materialise.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. The development and tendering of this contract is supported by the County under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) Act 2014 and Denbighshire County Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Procurement Rules (rules 2.7.1 and 5.5).
- 11.2 Power delegated to the Cabinet Member as per the Member Scheme of Delegation outlined in Appendix 2(b) to Section 13 of the Council's Constitution.