

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

**EXTENSION OF CONTRACT WITH GLASGOW SIMON COMMUNITY  
ROUGH SLEEPERS INITIATIVE**

**Report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from Members to agree to the extension of the current pan Ayrshire contract with the Glasgow Simon Community for a further six months after the end of the current term of the contract in November 2009. This will allow the current service to continue while an evaluation of the outcomes delivered by the project is undertaken, and arrangements for future service delivery are put in place.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 As part of the Rough Sleepers Initiative, a contract was tendered by East Ayrshire Council in 2006 on behalf of all three Ayrshire authorities, to provide intensive support to people living in Ayrshire who had been identified as being vulnerable to the risk of rough sleeping for a three year period. The actual funding for the contract was and is held by North Ayrshire Council on behalf of the three Ayrshire authorities. North Ayrshire Council also acts as the Contract Administrator on behalf the three Ayrshire authorities.

**3 PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 Rough sleeping continues to be a small but persistent problem across Ayrshire and the need for an intensive support service continues. The number of service users is relatively evenly distributed across the three authorities as can be seen from the table below. Approximately one third of referrals are female. All have chaotic lifestyles, mainly as the result of alcohol or substance misuse.

Year	EAC	NAC	SAC	Total
2007/08	19	20	20	59
2008/09	12	28	22	62
2009/10 (up to Sept 09)	18	13	8	39

- 3.2 The current Ayrshire project employs 10 FTE staff based at Caprington Avenue, Kilmarnock. A further 1.5 FTE staff are employed at HMP Bowhouse where they help prisoners nearing release with advice and information on their housing options.
- 3.3 In discussion at officer level, colleagues in both North and South Ayrshire Councils have expressed a wish to continue with the fundamentals of the present service in future years. As part of any re-tendering process for further provision of the service for an additional period of three years, it would be the intention to review service levels and methods of support, as well as performance monitoring and reporting. There will be TUPE undertakings for the existing workforce.
- 3.4 However, against the background of severe financial pressures on Scotland's public sector, it is considered appropriate to review the present service arrangements which date from 2006 and evaluate the outcomes for individuals assisted by the project over the last 3 years. The evaluation would seek evidence of success and value for money arising from present arrangements and provide options for future service provision which would demonstrate best value and deliver improved service performance which meets applicants needs in a cost-effective way in future years.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GENERAL FUND**

- 4.1 There are currently no implications for the General Fund, as the funding for the Pan-Ayrshire service is presently paid to North Ayrshire Council as part of their grant settlement. The current service costs £350,000 annually. There has been no uplift on the annual contract value since the start of the contract in 2007. Any future considerations arising for the General Fund will be assessed as part of the project evaluation which will report by end of January 2010.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The continuation of the present contract arrangements will support the three Ayrshire Council's efforts to minimise rough sleeping in the area.

#### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Under Clause 20.2 of the Council's Standing Orders any extension of a contract after its termination date requires Cabinet approval. Given the intention to evaluate the outcomes delivered by the current project and, in terms of any new service, to review service levels and methods of support, as well as performance monitoring and reporting, it has not been possible to re-tender the contract in sufficient time to ensure that a new contract can be in place on the date of termination of the existing contract. An extension to the existing contract for a 6 month period is accordingly considered necessary to ensure continued service delivery. Given that the contract is a Pan Ayrshire one the other 2 authorities will equally require to agree to the proposed extension.

## **7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The majority of service users are single men under the age of 35 whose lifestyles, unless supported, are chaotic. They are overrepresented in the prison population as well as among psychiatric in patients. Providing them with support reduces the risk of them reoffending or being readmitted to hospital. This supports the national objectives of tackling the significant inequalities in Scottish society and improving the life chances for children, young people and families at risk. The proposals outlined in this report support the East Ayrshire Community Plan theme "Improving Health and Wellbeing".

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The provision of support to this group minimises risks to them and also to the wider community.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Members are recommended to:
- (i) Agree to the extension of the existing contract with the Glasgow Simon Community for a period of 6 months from the current termination date;
  - (ii) Authorise an evaluation of current service arrangements as described in paragraph 3.4 to inform future service planning;
  - (iii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

William Stafford  
**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

19 November 2009

CMCA/JQ/GC

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Contract Documents for the Ayrshire Intensive Housing Support Service

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