

**Decision Maker:** Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 22nd January 2013

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Key

**Title:** **PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR TENANCY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE**

**Contact Officer:** Wendy Norman, Strategic Manager, Procurement and Contract Compliance  
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**Chief Officer:** Terry Parkin, Executive Director Education Care and Health

**Ward:** Boroughwide

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1. Reason for report

At the Executive meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014, a gateway review on tenancy support for homeless people was considered. The Executive agreed that it would be helpful for Care Services PDS Committee to consider the matter before a decision is taken. As such, it was agreed to include the report on this agenda (attached as Appendix 1). Further information is provided on the service for consideration by PDS Committee.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

Members of the PDS committee are asked to comment on the proposals in the report.

## Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status:: Existing policy
  2. BBB Priority: Supporting independence
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Est £272k per annum
  2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Supporting people budget 749 3462
  4. Total current budget for this head: £3.1m
  5. Source of funding: ECHS revenue budget
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## Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): External provider
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 14 days per annum for contract monitoring
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non statutory – government guidance
  2. Call-in: Applicable
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): A minimum of 49 people benefit from this service at any one time
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments?
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

### 3. COMMENTARY

The attached report sets out a proposal for retendering the current support service for homeless people. During the course of the current contract, Riverside ECHG have improved on their previous performance in successfully moving on homeless people from the hostel provision. Over the first 3 years of the contract, 85% of tenants departing from the scheme moved into permanent accommodation. This performance has increased to 90% during the last year.

Riverside has also made significant improvements at the scheme by offering tenants the opportunity to undertake meaningful activity whilst resident. This can take the form of education, vocational training or volunteering. In addition all tenants are required to take part in life skills training, which includes budgeting, cooking and gardening skills. Provision of this support vastly increases the chances of the users being able to sustain an independent tenancy when they move on from the scheme.

The recipients of this service are amongst the most vulnerable adults who are placed by the Council. They may be experiencing mental ill health or substance misuse problems in addition to their homeless status. This accommodation is selected when available in preference to bed and breakfast as there is an increased risk both to and from the tenant and to other users of the accommodation where there is no supervision or support service in place.

There are a significant number of units occupied by vulnerable tenants on this site. The landlord of the property would have serious reservations about continuing to let this accommodation to the same group of people without support as this could well pose a major risk to the safety and structure of the accommodation.

Although the Council currently has 100% nomination rights to the scheme if it ceased to use these the landlord would need to make up its rental income from other sources and could take nominations from other local authorities. If they did this there is a risk that Bromley would take on the liability of service users with serious on-going social and medical problems from other boroughs.

An alternative option for the Council would be to place the service users in bed and breakfast accommodation. The relative unit costs are £106 per week for this contract, as opposed to at least £186 per week for nightly paid accommodation.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Legal, Financial, Policy, Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	CS3051 Procurement strategy for tenancy support services for homeless people. Executive 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2014