

HRS Update Report – Housing Board 06.09.19

HRS Commissioning Strategy:

An outline for the commissioning strategy has been agreed by the HRS Governance Board, and work has started on drafting some of the initial sections.

The HRS Strategy will also be informed by the wider Homelessness System Transformation Work and will need to incorporate the findings from the additional needs analysis work the County are hoping to fund through the HRS Review Transformation Funding.

The intention is still to have a draft completed by March 2020.

Redesign of YP homelessness services:

The 18 month contract extensions agreed by Committee are now in place. This gives an end date of 31/12/20 for all but one service which expires 30/11/20.

At present the redesign work has focussed around Cambridge City Services, where the biggest concentration of services is located. The new model aims to move away from commissioning just hostel based services.

To enable flexibility about how the new service is delivered, our intention is to set out the key elements we want to see delivered, but then allowing them to determine how the service looks and operates. This approach was well received by those providers who were present and there was also some positive discussion about collaborative working.

One of the features of the new model will be a requirement for all services to fully use INFORM – this will maximise data capture and enable us to have access to regular data reports. There would need to be some upgrade work to support this which would incur a cost.

The preferred approach for procuring this service would be a 'light touch dialogue' process which allows for an optional feedback / discussion session to be scheduled with the top 3 bidders following an initial evaluation.

Based on the current procurement timetable, this tender would go live in January 2020. The timetable includes a 6 month implementation period.

Adult homelessness services:

The 18 month contract extensions agreed by Committee are now in place. This gives an end date of 30/09/20 for those extended. Two services sit outside of this as their current contracts still include an option to extend.

The current procurement timetables generated for the re-tendering of Rough Sleeper & Single Homeless services do present a challenge for the following reasons;

- Providers having time to organise themselves for any partnership or consortia bid
- We do not yet have a final draft model to consult on as some ongoing work still needs to be considered as part of this e.g. pathways review being undertaken by Cambridge City
- There is an opportunity for this to be a joint procurement with Cambridge City, but this will require some realigning of current timetables (similar discussions have also started with Fenland DC)
- Timetable does not align with the current proposed timetable for the wider Needs Analysis work (which HRS will be an element of)

Adults and CYP Committee

We are scheduled to go back to CYP Committee on 8th October and Adults Committee in November. The deadline for draft papers for CYP is 26th September.

Approval will still need to be sought from member Members in relation to the future procurement of both the Young People and Adult homeless services.

September member briefing

A briefing note is being finalised for circulation to all County and District members.

We are also intending to have a joint County and City member briefing covering the development of Housing First for the City and HRS generally. This is currently scheduled for 26th September at 4pm at Cambridge Town Hall.

Savings Update

Not all of the savings proposals put forward have been implemented. However, as some additional savings have been found internally and some realised savings have generated a higher saving figure than estimated, we are still broadly on track to meet our savings target for the current financial year.

Info from other areas

- Oxfordshire have developed a pooled budget agreement for their homeless services – the agreements is between the County, districts and CCG (copy attached).
- Suffolk CC have also been reviewing HRS services, and as part of this they are looking at seeking future funding contributions from partners who are clearly benefiting from specific HRS services (e.g. offender services).