

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

13 OCTOBER 2011

SUBJECT:	<i>SUPPORTING PEOPLE CONTRACT – PROVISION OF SERVICE TO OFFENDERS</i>
WARD/S AFFECTED:	<i>ALL</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>KEVIN ADDERLEY INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES</i>
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	<i>GEORGE DAVIES</i>
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the procurement of a cross-authority floating (visiting) housing-related support service for Offenders subject to Multi- Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), through the Supporting People Programme.
- 1.2 The procurement of this service assists the Council to achieve its corporate priority of supporting vulnerable people to maintain their independence in the community.
- 1.3 The award of this three year contract has resulted in a saving to Wirral Supporting People of £17, 428 per year (£52,284 over the three years of the contract). The aim of this service is to reduce levels of re-offending and will therefore also assist partners in the Criminal Justice System.
- 1.4 Whilst the award of council funding for this provision is not a statutory requirement, Section 325 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a 'duty to co-operate' with the MAPPA Responsible Authority (Police, Prisons and Probation) upon a number of bodies including councils.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 Members note the further extension of the current contract and the procurement of a cross-authority floating housing-related support service for Offenders subject to MAPPA.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 The decision to commission a cross authority visiting support services for high risk offenders will:

- Reduce re offending through a multi agency approach to managing prolific and dangerous offenders.
- Improve confidence in the Council by effectively managing these offenders in the community.
- Achieve savings through economies of scales realised through a Cross Authority contract.

3.2 The continuation and development of good quality housing related support services will engage those clients who are more susceptible to committing crime and disorder, whilst improving the positive outcomes by enabling them to break the cycle of crime and become more integrated and productive members of society.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The Supporting People (SP) Programme is national initiative, administered at local level. On Wirral, the programme is a partnership between the Council, Merseyside Probation Trust, NHS Wirral and other stakeholders which aims to prevent individuals experiencing crises and requiring more costly service intervention; and to enable vulnerable people to live independently through the provision of front-line housing-related support services.

4.2 SP funding is allocated, through a contractual framework, to a range of organisations (voluntary, charitable, private sector, Housing Associations) to provide key front-line services to multiple disadvantaged people.

4.3 MAPPA is the name given to arrangements for responsible authorities tasked with the management of: registered sex offenders; violent and other types of sexual offenders; offenders who pose a serious risk of harm to the public. The responsible authorities include: National Probation Directorate; HM Prison Service; the Public Protection Unit within the National Offender Management Service (NOMS); the Youth Justice Board. They work in conjunction with partner agencies, like local authorities and health agencies in order to conduct a formal risk assessment and then to develop a management plan for each offender.

4.4 In 2007 Wirral Supporting People Commissioning Body authorised the development of a MAPPA Intensive Support Service as a pilot scheme, this was in response to a request made by Merseyside Probation Service. Initially the service was commissioned for 12 months in order that it could be monitored to ensure it was delivering effective results and demonstrated value for money. The total contract value of this service was £50,000 and could provide support to 8 Offenders.

4.5 The service proved to be very effective in supporting the clients and in assisting partner agencies in delivering their targets and in maintaining public

safety. Following the 12 month pilot and as a result of the success the service the Commissioning Body authorised its continuation.

- 4.6 The Merseyside Authorities became aware of the service; its success in supporting partners priorities and requirements; the benefits to public protection. The service was hailed as excellent practice and as a result the neighbouring Authorities developed similar services within their areas.
- 4.7 It was proposed by the Wirral's Supporting People Commissioning Body, that these services could be consolidated in order to deliver a larger cross-authority service, thus achieving economies of scale for each Local Authority whilst maintaining the existing number of clients supported. It was further determined that Liverpool City Council, as the largest financial contributor to this service, would manage the procurement of this service and the subsequent contract, however officers from all partner authorities evaluated the tenders submitted.
- 4.8 A formal Memorandum of Agreement was developed by Liverpool City Councils legal department and has been agreed and sealed by each of the Authorities Borough Solicitors.
- 4.9 The Invitation to tender was issued in October 2010. The procurement process concluded in May 2011 and the successful bidder was Novas Scarman, which is a charitable organisation. The new contract will commence on the 1st December 2011.
- 4.10 The cross-authority contract will be delivered as follows:

LOCAL AUTHORITY	NUMBERS OF CLIENTS SUPPORTED	CONTRACT PRICE ANNUALLY	Total Contract value (over 3 years)
Wirral	8	£ 32,571.42	£ 97,714.26
Liverpool	16	£ 65,142.87	£195,428.61
Knowsley	4	£ 16,285.71	£ 48,857.13
Total	28	£114,000.00	£342,000.00

- 4.11 Due to economies of scale attained through the larger contract, the cost has been reduced from £50,000 per annum to £32,572. This means an annual saving to Wirral Council of £17,428 (£52,284 over the 3 year life of the contract).
- 4.12 Cabinet on the 14th April 2011 endorsed the Interim Director of Corporate Services recommendation to extend funding for the existing Wirral service until the 2nd October 2011 in order to ensure a continuous service until the cross-authority provision was established. However, it has been necessary for the Interim Director of Corporate Services, under his delegated powers of authority, (paragraph 23 of the Scheme of Delegation) to further extend the contract until 1st December 2011 because Liverpool City Council, as the accountable body, had not secured Members approval within the previously proposed timescales.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 Whilst the award of council funding for this provision is not a statutory requirement, Section 325 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 imposes a 'duty to co-operate' with the MAPPA Responsible Authority (Police, Prisons and Probation) upon a number of bodies including councils. The provision of a Cross Authority floating support service for these offenders reduces the risk of re-offending and the impact that this has on their victims of crime and the wider community.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 No other options were considered. It was determined that the tendering of a cross authority service would be the most cost effective and efficient method of delivering services to the clients whilst continuing to support MAPPA requirements.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Supported and Special Needs Housing Section Commissioning Strategy 2008-2011 (including a procurement methodology) outlined the basis for which future contracting and commissioning of services were to be negotiated. The Strategy was developed after full consultation Service User, Provider Organisations, and other relevant stakeholders.

7.2 Consultation has taken place with members of the SP Core Strategic Group, Merseyside Probation service and representatives from the Supporting People Teams within the 3 neighbouring Merseyside Authorities. They are supportive of the actions set out in this report.

7.3 As part of the contract monitoring process, we will conduct Service User consultation in order to ensure that the re-provision continues to meet their support needs and the broader needs of the community.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 The contract for this service has been awarded to a charitable organisation.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 The development of the Cross Authority MAPPA service has resulted in a reduction in expenditure from the Supporting People budget of £17,428 per annum, which is a total reduction of £52,284 for the life of the contract.

9.2 Wirral SP contribution to the cost of the service will be met within the current budget allocated for the SP Programme.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Wirral Council and the 2 Merseyside Authorities have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the contracting, delivery and funding of the

Cross Authority service. The Agreement was examined and authorised by the Councils Legal Services prior to sign off. The procurement process followed by Liverpool City Council was compliant with EU Procurement regulations.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the award of this contract. The service is required to have appropriate policies and procedures in place to ensure fair access.
- 11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)
(a) Is an EIA required? No
(b) If 'yes', has one been completed?

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no environmental issues arising from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There are no planning implications arising from this report.
- 13.2 The provision of housing-related support to offenders is recognised as reducing levels of criminal behaviour, thus assisting and supporting Community Safety requirements.

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APPENDICES

None.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet - Supporting People Contracts Report	14 th April 2011