

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	11 March 2024
Title of Report:	Complex Needs Alliance Contract
Lead Member:	Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall (Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care)
Lead Strategic Director:	Gary Walbridge (Interim Strategic Director for People)
Author:	Dominique Slaney, Senior Commissioning Officer
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Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This paper provides an update on the work of The Plymouth Alliance (TPA), a collaboration of seven partner organisations who deliver services under the Complex Needs Alliance Contract. The Alliance supports some of the most vulnerable people in Plymouth through a broad range of statutory and non-statutory interventions for those with support needs in relation to homelessness and who may also have needs around substance or alcohol use, mental health, offending and risk of exploitation. The Alliance has been in place since 2019 and is a new way of delivering services via collaboration and the shared allocation of resources, with Plymouth City Council as part of the team of partners. Decisions are made via the Alliance Leadership team, considering how best to allocate resources to meet need.

The Alliance is made up of seven partner organisations alongside the Council; BCHA, Hamoaze, Harbour, Livewell, PATH, Shekinah and The Zone, who share responsibility with the Council for achieving outcomes and are mutually supportive, making decisions based on the best outcome for the service user. TPA commission a further five sub-contractors to the main contract, (CC Housing, Livewest, Salvation Army, Westward Housing and Young Devon).

The contract, awarded in 2019, has a current core contract value which is funded by Plymouth City Council of £6,308,747 per annum, and a total of £36.287m since 2019. In addition, £9.767m of additional funding has been brought into the city via grant funding since 2019. The contract awarded was an initial term of 5 years with extension options of 2+2+1. The initial contract term (5 years) is due to expire on 31st March 2024.

This business case provides an update on the work of the Alliance to date and proposes the extension and variation of the contractual arrangements between Plymouth City Council and The Plymouth Alliance. It is our intention to continue to maximise additional income streams to support these services and also develop a greater understanding of the impact of the Alliance model on people's lives and outcomes.

Between October and December 2023 the following are examples of Alliance activity:

- An average of 2,530 clients were open to services each month;

- 737 prescriptions were prescribed in-house by Livewell Southwest and Harbour;
- 438 individuals were supported to maintain their tenancy (homelessness prevention);
- 274 young people were seen in the young person's hub;
- 63 rough sleepers were accommodated.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. Vary the current contract as set out in this report;

Reason

Three contract variations are required to the core contract to ensure that the services funded by the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) 2023-2025 allocation to Plymouth City Council are provided in line with the Council's agreed delivery and bid submission to DLUHC, and to ensure that the services funded by the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) 2023-2025 allocation are provided in line with the December 2021 Drug Strategy. The additional services are a key delivery arm of the Council's End Rough Sleeping Plan for 2023/24 and the December 2021 Drug Strategy. This fully aligns with the aims of the Homelessness Recovery Board, The Plymouth Alliance, The Rough Sleeper Strategy Group and Public Health. This proposal will ensure that, during this key time of strategic development and in the pandemic recovery, drug and alcohol treatment and homelessness prevention and support services can be delivered and sustained from both a best for people and commissioning perspective to continue delivering positive outcomes for Plymouth residents.

2. Extend the current contract for a further two years (until 31 March 2026) at a core budget value of £6,308,747 per annum;
3. Approve the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) and Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) awards for 2023-24 and RSI additional targeted award for 2024-25;
4. Grant authority to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities and the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care to extend the core contract beyond 31 March 2026 for an additional 2 + 1 years (in line with the original tender and cabinet decision of 15 Jan 2019)

Reason

This will ensure strategic oversight and accountability.

5. Grant authority to the Strategic Director for People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities and the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care to award future individual contract variations up to the value of £3 million per variation, as a result of Grant funding (including, but not limited to, RSI and SSMTRG) within the contract period.

Reason

This will enable operational decisions to be taken and grant funding to be secured.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The following options have been considered and rejected:

Allow the Contract Extension and Variations for a lesser sum

This option would not allow the services to be delivered that were described in our funding bids to the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Office of Health Improvement

Disparities (OHID.) This would require unspent allocated funds to be returned to DLUHC and OHID with the reputational damage and penalties for future funding allocations that would result. Services are already being delivered under these funding streams for 23/24. This option would therefore restrict the inability of Plymouth City Council to meet its statutory duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 to take appropriate steps to address the needs of people experiencing / or at risk of homelessness and people using alcohol and substances.

Do not extend or vary the contract

The service is performing a critical function in supporting our vulnerable citizens. As such we wish to make use of the extension options as originally procured to continue to embed our partnership response to complex needs.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This proposal relates to the following parts of the Corporate Plan and Plymouth Plan:

- Corporate Plan – Keeping adults, children and communities safe.
- Plymouth Plan – linked to a Welcoming City and a Healthy City, through addressing health inequalities and long-term health conditions, ensuring people feel safe and have the home they need.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The current core contract value of the Complex Needs Alliance Contract is - £6,308,747 / annum of which £3,528,281 is funded from the Public Health Budget (Office of the Director of Public Health); the remaining balance is funded from Strategic Co-operative Commissioning and Community Connections.

Since the original contract was awarded in 2019 significant sources of additional grant funding have become available and this has meant that the budget for the service has fluctuated to reflect this. For the purpose of this paper relevant examples are:

Under the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) grant funding stream, **£1,257,352**, has been allocated to delivery partners under the Alliance Contract, (£1,146,185 Initial 23/24 allocation + £111,167 Additional targeted funding award). The RSI Additional Targeted Funding award for 2024-25 includes **£134,000** of which has been allocated to delivery partners under the Alliance Contract for the financial year 2024-25. This funding is provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) under the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) 2022-25 Tranche 3 Grant Determination (2023-2024) [No 31/6695] and Additional Targeted funding for 2023–25. Working with DLUHC to agree service delivery, the RSI Grant is ring-fenced money provided to address the needs of those who are currently rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping, and in accordance with the Council's Ending Rough Sleeping Plan 2023/24.

Under the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant funding stream, **£992,643** has been allocated to delivery partners within the Plymouth Alliance, for the financial year 23/24; (an additional allocation of **£2,443,196** has been indicated for the financial year 24/25 by the Department of Health and Social Care). This grant is to support the improvements described in the December 2021 drug strategy. (Indicative allocations subject to departmental and HM Treasury approvals). This latter grant is for increased drug and alcohol treatment services and is dependent on the Council maintaining existing investment in local council (20/21) investment in drug and alcohol treatment.

Financial Risks

The core budget for the Alliance is built into the Council's MTFP and reviewed regularly as part of this process to ensure that key objectives are being met. Additional projects are agreed as and when grant

funding becomes available, for the duration of that funding. The Alliance partners have worked with Plymouth City Council to secure an additional £9.767m of grant funding since 2019.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The services within the Alliance are delivered in Plymouth and aim to ensure that those using them can receive the help they need as close to home as possible, to minimise the need for any unnecessary travel.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

No other implications identified

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Complex Needs Alliance contract							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							
C	Climate Impact Assessment							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
N/A							

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Emma Crowther, Interim Head of Commissioning											

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 27/02/2024

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Aspinall and Councillor Penberthy

Date approved: 06/03/2024