

Select report type
Name of Committee

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 19 March 2024

Report Title

The Single Homeless Accommodation Programme Funding (SHAP)

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

Report Author(s)

Sandra Tolley, Head of Housing Options

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

Roundabout Ltd, supported by the Council, submitted a bid to DLUHC and were successful, for 14 units of supported accommodation, for 4-year funding totalling £718,054. Initially the Council will award a contract to Roundabout Ltd on a direct award basis following the successful funding bid, in order to pilot the approach.

The purpose of this report is to agree to issue a contract to Roundabout Ltd, up to March 2025 as per the terms of DLUHC's Memorandum of Understanding, for 14 units of accommodation for young people aged 18 to 25 with complex needs. A competitive procurement will then be undertaken to award a further contract for the period April 2025 to March 2027.

Recommendations

1. Acknowledge the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
2. Agree to issue a contract, for £288,416, to Roundabout Ltd for funding up to March 2025. The funding to be transferred in two stages as follows:
 - Year 1 - £56,330 for 2023/2024
 - Year 2 - £232,086 for 2024/25

3. To undertake a competitive procurement for 14 units of accommodation for 18-to-25-year-olds with complex needs for the period April 2025 to March 2027.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Memo of Understanding

Appendix 2 Financial Monitoring of the SHAP funding

Background Papers

None

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

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1. Background

- 1.1 In September 2022 the Government announced an allocation of over £200 million to the SHAP programme, to provide up to 2,400 units of accommodation with support to address existing rough sleeping need in a local area's pathway and help to prevent future rough sleeping.
- 1.2 Rotherham was identified as a Local Authority as having a need for further accommodation for vulnerable young people (age 18-25) at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping, through the data submissions the Council provides to central Government on homelessness applications.
- 1.3 The Council submitted a gap analysis and Roundabout Ltd submitted a bid to DLUHC. This resulted in the Council being awarded a grant for £718,054, for 14 units of supported accommodation, for a 4-year funding period. The Council will undertake a direct award of a contract to Roundabout Ltd for an initial pilot period up to March 2025. The Grant issued to the Council under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) must be spent in accordance with the Bid Prospectus and in line with the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Prevalence of Youth Homelessness in Rotherham

The gap analysis, which was submitted as part of the bid, was over a 3-month period Oct 2022- Dec 2022. It was identified that 50 young people aged 18-25 approached the Council's homelessness services for homelessness assistance, this was 20% of the total presentations for this period. 18 (36%) approached at prevention stage and 32 (64%) at the relief stage.

- 2.2 The true number of young homeless people is likely to be even higher. Homelessness is difficult to measure, and data is based on the young people who have approached the Council's Homelessness Service, therefore will not include everyone. There are also people who are 'hidden homeless', who are getting by with informal arrangements. These young people are most likely sofa surfing, sleeping on floors or staying with friends and strangers.
- 2.3 Roundabout Ltd offers specialised commissioned Youth Housing Related Support (HRS) services for single young people. Roundabout is contracted to deliver the single homeless accommodation and support services for young people aged 16-25 in Rotherham and recently awarded the replacement contract to continue to provide these services from 1 April 2024, through a further competition exercise via the Accommodation & Support for Young People Aged 16-25 Flexible Purchasing System (FPS). Roundabout Ltd, supported by the Council, submitted a proposal to DLUCH for 14 units of accommodation with support for young people with complex needs. As follows:

- 4 assessment units - which will provide a service model for young people with medium to higher needs whose needs can be better met with onsite 24/7 support staff. Some young people need longer before the housing pathway is agreed or where appropriate time to re-established family networks as part of the prevention work.
- 10 dispersed self-contained units which will help to increase through-flow by increasing housing options.
- To ensure young people with a high level of complex needs have access to intensive specialised trauma informed support, the 10 units will be set up as a housing led model such as Housing First for Youths. The 10 self-contained units will help to address the identified gap. The service would offer a new tailored approach to ending youth homelessness in Rotherham and help to reduce the risk of refusal from other services and evictions.

2.4 The project is similar to a Housing First model, providing a home and additional intensive support as long as it is needed.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Option 1 – Do Nothing.** This is not recommended. Roundabout Ltd, supported by the Council, submitted a bid to DLUHC and were successful, for the additional 14 units of supported accommodation, for young people.

3.2 **Option 2 – Recommended approach to issue a contract, up to March 2025 to Roundabout Ltd.** This will bring much needed additional accommodation into Rotherham, for young people, along with support by a specialist provider in order to pilot the arrangement.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The Cabinet Member for Housing and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion have been updated on the progress of this activity.

4.2 The Council completed a gap analysis to frame the need for SHAP funding at a local strategic level, working closely with DLUHC and several providers to co-produce a Strategic Gap Analysis.

4.3 The Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023 - 2026 includes six priorities. Priority 5 is to support people with complex needs. As part of the development of the Strategy, the Council consulted with a wide range of people with lived experience. The feedback from young people is that they felt that it important to live in supported accommodation to help them get back on their feet.

4.4 Throughout the entire design period of the bid, engagement was undertaken with several providers, who were contacted to ask for expressions of interest in various ways, via email to known service providers and at various meetings with local providers. The opportunity to bid for SHAP funding was

discussed with wider partners at the Strategic Housing Forum on 23 October 2022 and 17 May 2023.

4.5 Initially there were six providers who expressed interest, but during the scoping works, five of the providers pulled out and Roundabout Ltd were the only remaining interested party. As a result, Roundabout Ltd submitted a bid direct to DHLUC, supported by the Council, to source 14 properties on a lease arrangement and provide the tenancy support for young people with complex needs.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 The Strategic Director of Adult Social Care, Housing and Public Health is accountable for implementing this decision.

5.2 Monitoring information, regarding progress of the scheme, will be provided to DLUHC on an annual basis. The return for 2023/2024 is attached at appendix 2, showing the scheme is progressing well with the first year's allocation of £56,330 being projected to be spent by March 2024.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 There are no direct budget implications to the Council with regards to this funding. The Council has received funding from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the purpose of delivering this service.

6.2 The direct award of the contract to Roundabout Ltd and subsequent procurement activity for the contract required April 2025 to March 2027 will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended) or subsequent legislation.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 The estimated value of the Contract for one year with Roundabout Ltd is £288,416, and as such falls below the threshold for Social and Other Specific Services (SOSS) in the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended) of £633,540.

7.2 However, it is subject to the Council's Financial and Procurement rules which require competitive tendering for SOS Contracts with a value of between £189,330 and the Relevant Threshold. (Rule 58.5).

7.3 An exemption to this rule is being sought, as the service has engaged with potential providers, and requested expressions of interest, but the only candidate remaining in the competition was Roundabout LTD.

7.4 This is a valid ground for an exemption. However, the Service must conduct a further competitive exercise for subsequent years.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no HR implications arising from the report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 The proposals will bring direct benefits for other directorates and partners, particularly in reducing youth homelessness for Children and Young People.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no implications for equalities or human rights as the funding will bring a positive impact. Protected characteristic groups informed the gap analysis, recognising the increasing complexity of young people and identified that:

- 46% of homeless applicants are young women and 54% are young men.
- 70% White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British, 14% Any other White background, 2% Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi, 4% Black/ African/Caribbean/Black British: African, 10% unknown.
- Two sets of equality data report between 10-20% of YP are of LGBTQ+ community.
- The number of young people reporting with a disability is high for a young population - 73.68%
- Snapshot data from April 2023 provided a better understanding – YP reported physical health issues, diagnosed/undiagnosed learning difficulties.
- Highest area of support need, Mental Health 38%, Complex Needs (2 or more needs) 13%. Similar trends are evident in homelessness applications and when speaking to stakeholders.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 This proposal has no additional impact on emissions

12. Implications for Partners

12.1. There are no direct impacts from this decision for partners. The delivery of the grant is widely seen as an important catalyst in bringing in 14 additional units of accommodation for young people and is welcomed by all partners who were consulted as part of the bid submission.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 Roundabout Ltd are a known specialist provider, with a proven track record in delivery of support services for young people. Soft market testing has been undertaken, prior to bid submission with several providers who had the

opportunity to bid but due to pressures within their services decided not to proceed. The providers are aware that Roundabout submitted the bid and were successful.

- 13.2 A contract, via an exemption, will be put in place with Roundabout Ltd to replicate the terms in which the Council has agreed to, in the Memo of Understanding with DHLUC, and ongoing activity will be monitored.
- 13.3 Roundabout Ltd are contracted to provide services for ACH&PH and CYPS and have recently been assessed as low risk to the Council, through the recent tender process, in which they were successful.

14. **Accountable Officers**

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adults, Housing and Public Health
James Clark, Assistant Director of Housing
Sandra Tolley, Head of Housing Options

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	Click here to enter a date.

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