

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 13th December 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health and Adults

SUBJECT: Reconfiguration of homelessness service at Orchard House

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To give an update on the proposal received from Nightstop for the reconfiguration of Orchard House and further options to be considered.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) **agree to maintain the status quo and continue to provide a hostel service at Orchard House and existing Nightstop service through Halton YMCA.**
- 2) **agree to a further waiver to procurement standing orders for an extension of the existing contract(s) with Community Integrated Care (CIC) until 31st October 2013, in line with the preferred option.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Orchard House is a six bedroomed homelessness hostel in Widnes that supports young people between 16 and 25yrs of age. On 12th July 2012 Executive Board approved a proposal to enter into negotiations with Nightstop to reconfigure the service at Orchard House, to provide an integrated Crisis Intervention Service for young people, incorporating the existing Nightstop service.

3.2 Meetings were held with Nightstop to discuss the proposed service delivery model, and indicative costings were given based on daytime targeted support being delivered by their staff and partner agencies, including HBC Youth Officer and Children's Services. Nightstop was invited to submit their service delivery proposal, which was received on 19th October 2012. They have now submitted a proposal based on a 5 member staffing rota at a cost of £241,000 which is £44,866 in excess of what is currently being paid for services at Orchard House and Nightstop.

- 3.3 A meeting was held with Nightstop on 22nd October 2012, at which they were informed that as their proposed costs exceed the indicative budget, officers cannot proceed with the service reconfiguration and a further report would need to be taken to Board.
- 3.4 Community Integrated Care (CIC) who currently provide the support service in Orchard House have indicated that whilst they will continue to provide a service at Orchard House in the interim, they do not wish to enter into any long term agreement for the provision of homeless services, as this no longer forms part of their long term business plans.
- 3.5 An additional meeting of the Homelessness Scrutiny Group was held on 21st November 2012 to consider the following options for Orchard House:
- Retain status quo and continue to provide hostel service at Orchard House and existing Nightstop service through Halton YMCA
 - Open tender for integrated Crisis Intervention Service at Orchard House
 - Request waiver to standing orders to negotiate the reconfiguration of Orchard House as an integrated Crisis Intervention Service with Depaul UK.
- 3.6 All options were discussed and members raised the following concerns:
- Cosmopolitan Housing Association (CHA) own Orchard House and are currently going through organisational changes, which will result in their properties in Halton being taken over by another registered provider (RP). The organisational changes are currently making it difficult to liaise with CHA and any proposals to change the service delivery model at Orchard House must be done in partnership with the RP.
 - The proposed Widnes homeless hostel was due to be developed with CHA. Halton Housing Trust (HHT) have applied to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for funding to develop a hostel on the same site and are awaiting the funding announcement.
 - If funding is not awarded for the Widnes hostel, the proposals to reconfigure Orchard House into a Crisis Intervention Service would result in there being no homeless accommodation in Widnes.
- 3.7 Due to the above issues, it was agreed to recommend maintaining the status quo with regard to the existing services at Orchard House and Nightstop until further information is known about the position with CHA and the funding application for the Widnes hostel. Update reports with options for Orchard House will be taken to Health Policy

and Performance Board and Executive Board in March 2013 when further information is available.

3.8 The current contractual position for the Orchard House service is that on 8th November 2012 Executive Board has agreed a variation to extend the contract with CIC to 31st January 2013.

3.9 CIC has indicated they will work with HBC to provide a service at Orchard House as long as they are delivering the Belvedere service. The existing contract at Belvedere is due to expire on 31st October 2013. This report seeks approval to extend the contract with CIC for the provision of support at Orchard House until 31st October 2013. The Nightstop service does not require a waiver as the existing contract has the option to extend until 31st March 2015.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The following table shows the current contract value for Orchard House and Nightstop services and highlights the proposed indicative budget submitted by Halton YMCA:

Orchard House	£149,883.25
Halton YMCA Nightstop	£46,250
Total existing budget	£196,133.25
Indicative YMCA budget for Crisis Intervention Service	£241,000
Variance against existing budget	-£44,866.75

5.2 Costs for the extension for support services at Orchard House until 31st October 2013 can be met within existing budgets.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

A remodelled service at Orchard House would deliver targeted support and mediation to meet identified gaps in provision.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Homeless services support vulnerable people to access training and work opportunities, contributing to Halton's worklessness agenda.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Homeless services offer support to vulnerable people by promoting social inclusion and have a positive impact on a person's mental and physical health.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Supporting People services provide support to vulnerable people enabling people to stay safe and addressing issues of harm from others, to others and to self.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1	Proposal	Risks
	Further contract extension for Orchard House to 31st October 2013 to align with expiry date of Belvedere service.	May require further extension if Widnes Hostel not built until 2014. If CIC do not wish to continue service provision will need to go to tender for support services.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed as part of the scrutiny review.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Scrutiny Review of Homelessness Services	Runcorn Town Hall	Angela McNamara