

**OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME
RECORD OF DECISION**



TO BE UPLOADED TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Date: 20 th October 2021	Ref No: LR104
Responsible Officer: Tom Houghton, Community Safety Manager, Corporate Core Services	
Type of Decision (please refer to MO Guidance):	
Key <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Freedom of Information Status: <i>(can the report go in the public domain)</i> Can go in the public domain	
Title/Subject matter: Award of contract for Safe Accommodation Service	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance:	
(i) Is the decision within an Approved Budget?	Yes
(ii) Is the decision in conflict with the council's policies, strategies or relevant service plans?	no
(iii) Does the decision amend existing or raise new policy issues?	no
(iv) Is the decision significant and/or does it meet the £100,000 threshold for recording?	Yes/ no – if yes please state; Contract value £290,000
Equality Impact Assessment [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? If yes – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]	yes

Summary:

Purpose

To request permission to award a contract to Safenet for the Safe Accommodation service for 12 months with the option to extend for a further 24 months, dependant on funding and performance.

Background

In April 2021 a new Domestic Abuse Bill was passed into law which imposed a new duty on Local Authorities to provide Safe Accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse and their families.

Alongside this, grant funding has been offered from MHCLG to meet the new statutory obligations.

A Needs Assessment was developed to inform the service that we require. A working group of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board then developed this into a service scope which was agreed with the Board.

Following an open tendering exercise, the decision of the multi-agency panel was taken to award the contract to Safenet.

Contract

The provider is contracted to deliver the following:

Arrange with Registered Social Landlords for between 20-25 quality, furnished units of accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse and their families. Housing should be split approximately 50% between refuge unit/s and dispersed accommodation.

The Provider will deliver specialist support into the accommodation on the following basis:

- Support for male and female victims and their children
- Service will be fully inclusive for victims from all equality strands.
- Service will cater for those with complex needs. Complex needs include mental health, substance misuse or offending behaviours.
- The service will accept referrals for victims from out of the borough, as well as Bury residents
- If there is a waiting list, Bury residents will be given priority
- The service will not automatically exclude residents on the basis of age (e.g. children of victims over 18 or victims under 18) the final decision will rest with the Local Authority or a nominated multi-agency group.
- The Provider will set aside £10,000 for victims with 'No Recourse to Public Funds' and those in employment who are unable to afford the service.
- The service will deliver other specialist support accordingly in either the refuge accommodation or other suitable venue.
- The Provider will work with existing multi-agency forums and services to determine appropriate time for victims to move-on from safe accommodation

Monitoring

The contract will be monitored through the Community Safety Team with anticipated outcomes including:

- Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse and violence in households.
- Increased resilience and the resources to prevent further experience of abuse.
- Improved mental, emotional and physical health and the opportunity to sustain these improvements.
- Increased financial stability and independence.
- Appropriate and stable accommodation for victims and dependent children.
- Increased access to education, training and employment opportunities.
- Children will be safer and better equipped to remain safe and adult clients will be better equipped for parenting.

Funding

The £290k contract over 12 months is funded entirely through the Safe Accommodation grant received from MHCLG.

Wards affected: All

Consultations: Soft-market testing event conducted with relevant statutory and third sector groups
Consultation event with Domestic Abuse Survivors

Scrutiny & Review Committee Interest:

Options considered:

Not to commission a service – it is a statutory duty on the Local Authority


To award to an alternative provider – An open tender exercise was undertaken and awarded to Safenet

To manage the service in-house – we don't currently have the expertise to manage this kind of project in-house including the support provision.

Decision *[with reasons]*

Award of contract for Safe Accommodation Service for the period 1st November 2021 – 31st October 2022 to:

SafeNet Domestic Abuse and Support Services
Centenary Court
Croft Street
Burnley
BB11 2ED
Contract value £290,000

Decision made by:	Signature:	Date:
Director or Chief/Senior Officer		26.10.21
Members Consulted [see note 1 below]		
Cabinet Member		
Lead Member		
Opposition Spokesperson		

Notes

1. Where, in accordance with the requirements of the Officer Delegation Scheme, a Chief Officer consults with the appropriate Cabinet Member they must sign the form so as to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. The signature of the Opposition Spokesperson should be obtained if required, to confirm that he/she has been consulted. Please refer to the MO Guidance.
2. **This form must not be used for urgent decisions.**
3. Where there is any doubt, Corporate Directors should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer.