

**Therapeutic Interventions**

Request for Information (RFI)

Date – Monday 20 November 2023

Version – 1.0

# Introduction

Cornwall Council has fixed term funding to end March 2025 to procure trauma informed therapeutic services and activities for rough sleepers. The Council is looking to put in place a contract by the end of March 2024 and carry out procurement activity starting early December 2023.

As part of developing our plans and specifications to meet this requirement we are issuing this Request for Information (RFI). This RFI is being issued to suppliers identified through our Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum and advertised on Supplying the South West.

You are invited to submit a response to this RFI. We look forward to your response by 6pm on Wednesday 29 November 2023. Email responses should be addressed to: **Helen.leyvasanchez@cornwall.gov.uk**

Please note:

All points discussed in this document are classified Confidential. The Council makes no obligations or undertakings in any way to:

1. go to tender,
2. accept any advice/information received from suppliers,
3. tender the requirement through any discussed routes to market and,
4. any other commitment to suppliers whatsoever, including any intention to form a contract with any supplier for provision of the requirement.

All Suppliers are solely responsible for their costs and expenses incurred in connection with participating in this pre-tender market engagement exercise, including completing the Questionnaire. Under no circumstances will the Council (or any of its advisers) be liable for any costs or expenses borne by the participants (or any of its advisers) in this market engagement process.

The Council (and its advisers):

* + do not make any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of information provided in this Questionnaire and supporting documents as part of this market engagement process (including any other subsequent documents, communications or information provided as part of this process).
  + shall not be liable for any loss or damage (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation) arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication.

Nothing in the Questionnaire (or any other subsequent documents, communications or information provided as part of this process) is, or should be, relied upon as a promise or a representation as to Council's ultimate decisions in relation to the scope of requirements which may form the specification for any subsequent procurement exercise.

**Background & Scope**

Cornwall Council is currently considering options for trauma informed therapeutic services for rough sleepers. This is currently a fixed term provision but a possibility to extend depending on future funding

The purpose of this soft market testing exercise is to determine the level of interest in the marketplace as well as developing our tender pack.

The Council has statutory duties to accommodate and support some people who are homeless and/or rough sleeping and have a strategy and a commitment to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping in Cornwall. It has been identified that many individuals who have experienced/are experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping have also experienced/are experiencing issues with their mental health and wellbeing.  This is often triggered by traumatic early life experiences and as a result they find it challenging to maintain accommodation which is due to the lack of life skills acquired during their earlier life and also due to the behaviours they have adopted to cope with their traumatic life experiences, which have become problems in and of themselves.

Mental health services have evolved over the years, initially through the CPFT delivering statutory services, but through grant funding the Next Steps to Mental Health & Wellbeing service has evolved into a partnership response to include statutory mental health services, Adult Social Care and the Voluntary Sector to encourage inclusion of Rough Sleepers in services and in their communities.  These services are helpful in engaging rough sleepers and providing short clinical and psychological interventions, but this therapeutic project will offer longer term support and a much wider range of therapeutic group and/or one-to-one activities and/or therapies, facilitating a highly person-centred approach with the intention of encouraging progress on individual journeys.

The proposed Therapeutic Service will complement and support two of the Council’s priorities:

• To create and support a ‘Thriving Sustainable Cornwall that offers a secure home for all’ as the programme will encourage clients address underlying issues that has so far prevented them from maintaining their accommodation.

• To create and support ‘Vibrant, Safe, Supported Communities where health starts at home’ where addressing the needs of rough sleepers will help communities feel less vulnerable due to behaviours or perceived risks around rough sleepers such as street drinking, drug use, crime and anti-social behaviour.  In addition, the rough sleepers who are at significant risk of harm when they are on the streets will feel safer if they can maintain their own accommodation.

There are a range of other services that aim to improve the health of those who sleep rough by working with substance misuse, hospital discharge and domestic abuse and sexual violence, so this programme will also support and complement these other services commissioned to assist rough sleepers.

Furthermore, this service will also support the council priorities in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, to include prevention, intervention and recovery from rough sleeping, forming part of a wider pathway for rough sleepers from the streets into their own tenancies.

The team who will manage and deliver this programme will work closely with our Rough Sleeper Access Service and Locality Resettlement teams to ensure those who require this intervention are supported to access it.  They will also be encouraged to work closely with the Empowering Independence Providers to ensure those services commissioned by Adult Social Care to deliver accommodation based and community-based prevention services for those who are homeless, can also refer clients who would benefit from such an intervention.

This provider will also work in partnership with Drug and Alcohol, Mental Ill Health, Safeguarding, Adult Social Care, Community Safety and Domestic Abuse Services, also commissioned through the council, to ensure the wider needs of rough sleepers are met.

Draft specification can be found in Appendix 1

The questions below are targeted to the areas of most interest at this stage in our process. We hope you are as excited as we are by this opportunity and look forward to receiving your response.

# RFI Questions – Suppliers to provide responses for Cornwall Council review

1. Would you be interested in bidding for this contract opportunity with Cornwall Council?

1. Please detail the experience your organisation has in delivering this type of service. Preferably, please refer to experience of contracts with public sector clients.
2. When/if the Council go to tender following the soft market test, is there anything in addition to the information in this brief and specification that suppliers would need to be advised of in order to aid in their response.

1. Please can you detail a brief statement to demonstrate what added value your organisation can offer in this type of market.

1. What sort of contractual commercial arrangements (e.g. pricing structures, statements of requirements, length of contract, terms and conditions etc.) will be most effective at achieving our objectives and incentives?

1. What common sorts of risks and issues do you anticipate with this sort of work and what recommendations do you have for mitigating them?

1. How would you structure a mobilise for this type of service provision?
2. How would you collaborate with the Council and other partners to deliver this?

1. What level of resource and associated roles and responsibilities would you expect from Cornwall Council to ensure the successful delivery of this service? Please give a rationale.