

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 4th September 2012

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr B Feely, Lead Member for Social Care and Children's Services

Date: 12th June 2012

Lead Officer: Supporting People Planning Officer

Title: Children's Services, Family Support Team, Child Protection Family Support Project, Tender Exemption

1. What is the report about?

The Supporting People funded Family Support Team, Child Protection Family Support Project.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is required on the exemption of this contract from the requirement to tender.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To exempt Family Support Team, Child Protection Family Support Project from the requirement to tender.

4. Report details.

- The Child Protection Family Support Project supports between 59 – 100 families who are receiving statutory services in the areas of child protection and children in need as well as families identified as being in crisis and in urgent need of such statutory services.
- This project also supports young people leaving the care of Denbighshire County Council where a continuing statutory duty exists.
- The need for this project was confirmed in the 2012-2013 Supporting People Operational Plan (SPOP) agreed by the Supporting People Planning Group and by a Delegated Decision of the Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing.
- This project is delivered internally by the Family Support Team based within Denbighshire County Council Children and Family Services department.
- The Family Support Team benefits from administrative and management support from Denbighshire County Council which allows more resources to be allocated to service delivery.
- The Family Support Team benefit from the support systems already in place within Denbighshire Social Services Department i.e. Access to PARIS system and all records in relation to Child in Need and Child Protection. These systems would not be available to external providers.

- The Family Support Team delivers quality outcomes to a challenging Service User group.
- The link between Social Services statutory Child Protection functions and those of this project are essential to ensure that this project operates successfully. It is felt that the current internal provider is best equipped to maintain these links. Any external provider would be extremely unlikely to be able to establish these links to a satisfactory level that ensured continuity in service provision.
- The annual contract value is £356,782.22 and the duration of the contract is 3 years with an option to extend for a further 2 years based on performance and outcomes. Therefore the funding allocation will be £1,783,911.12 for the maximum five years contract duration.
- In accordance with best practice and in consultation with the Strategic Procurement Unit there is no compelling case for outsourcing or contracting out this project.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Big Plan:

As part of the range of housing related support services, this project supports

- Vulnerable families to access coordinated family support intervention.
- Children and Young People with post 16 developments.
- Individuals and families to access education and training opportunities.
- Vulnerable individuals and families in accessing preventative support.

Responding to demographic change:

The project supports people who need housing. It also contributes towards tackling issues of transience and poverty.

Regeneration:

This project supports service users in addressing issues of multiple deprivation including housing deprivation and needs.

This project plays a key role in contributing to the prevention of homelessness for vulnerable groups:

“Partners in the public, private and voluntary sector will have worked together to eliminate deprivation”

“We will safeguard vulnerable children and adults, promoting their independence and ensuring that everyone is able to realise their potential.”

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Cost Implications: £356,782.22 per annum has been allocated to this project from Denbighshire’s SPRG funding as outlined in the 2012-13 SPOP and agreed by the Supporting People Planning Group. The funding allocation will be £1,783,911.12 for the maximum five years contract duration.

7. What consultations have been carried out?

- The project has been identified as strategically relevant and confirmed as a priority in the 2012-2013 SPOP.
- The Head of Internal Audit has been consulted and has confirmed that the proposed action is in compliance with Financial Regulations.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The proposals comply with Financial Regulations and the exemption sought is valid in this case. The cost of the project must be contained within the funding available.

9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- An exemption from tender would forego the opportunity to seek improved value for money from an alternative provider. However this should be considered against the potential cost and disruption should the internal administrative and safeguarding systems be no longer available to the provider of this service.
- This project was previously subject to competitive tender in 2009 and remained with Denbighshire County Council Children and Family Services.

Risks associated with this project going to tender include:-

- This project is strategically important to DCC Children and Family Services. If this project went out to competitive tender, this sensitive and challenging service with close links to Child Protection could be awarded to an external provider.
- Monitoring and reviewing arrangements for Child Protection would need to be factored into any cost savings gained from awarding this contract to an external provider. The cost implications to The Children and Family Services for providing this element of the service are unknown.
- The risks associated with not agreeing the recommendation include a direct impact on statutory services. The project alleviates pressure on Homelessness and other services by providing appropriate housing related support.

10. Power to make the Decision

Section 111 of the Local Government Act (1972); Financial Regulation 25(Contract Procedure Rules); CPR 10.1(a), 10.1(l) & 10.2