

Report of the Head of Targeted Services

Report to the Director of Children's Services

Date: 06/06/14

Subject: To waive contract procedure rules 9.1 and 9.2 to award a contract to Barnardo's for family work to address Domestic Violence.

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Leeds Families First initiative has new priorities one of these is responding to families where domestic violence is a factor.
2. There are a significant number of referrals to Social Work Services duty and advice where domestic violence is involved that do not reach the threshold for involvement from Social Work Services.
3. This is a service commissioned to work with families where there is domestic violence but no ongoing social work involvement.

Recommendations

4. To waive contract procedure rule 9.1 and 9.2 and award a contract to Barnardo's to provide a service to work with families where domestic violence is an issue.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To establish the need for a Domestic Violence service to work with families where there is a domestic violence but no ongoing social involvement.
- 1.2 To gain agreement for the waiver for the service.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Domestic violence is a key issue for Leeds as a city. It is responsible for a large number of referrals to the children's social work (CSW) service. It generates a high number of notifications from the police attending incidents. The data shown below highlights the numbers in the first quarter of this calendar year.
 - Jan 2014 – 190
 - Feb 2014 - 164
 - March 2014 -204
- 2.2 A high number of these notifications will not result in any follow up from social work services as there are no significant implications for child protection however, there is still a significant impact on the family.
- 2.3 The Leeds domestic violence strategy group also recognises there is a gap in services for families where domestic violence is a factor but where it is not at the threshold for a Multi- Agency Risk Assessment conference (MARAC).

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The impact of domestic violence on children and families is significant. Coordinated action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) Policy Report Insights into domestic violence (Jan 2014) highlights a 62% overlap between incidents of domestic violence and harm to a child.
- 3.2 While strategically we have services that work with domestic violence there are gaps in service where domestic violence is not at a level that it would trigger a MARAC. There are also gaps in provision to address perpetrator violence.
- 3.3 The service that is proposed will work with notifications of domestic violence that come into Children's Services, but are not of the threshold for social work services or do trigger a child and family in need assessment but not child protection proceedings.
- 3.4 The third sector and Barnardo's in particular are in a unique position to provide this service. Barnardo's history of working with families in Leeds and of delivering domestic violence services nationally gives them the experience to deliver this

service. The third sector has the independence to gain the trust of families who have fears of statutory involvement.

3.5 The waiver will invoke CPR 9.1 and 9.2 to establish the contract.

Consequences if the proposed action is not approved

3.6 The service needs to be fully operational by the 1st August 2014 to enable it to respond to the emerging priorities of the Families First Initiative. If it is not approved there will be a gap in service for a key area of income for Children's Services. It will also impact on families who are experiencing difficulties.

Advertising

3.7 No advertising has taken place in respect of this arrangement as the contract will be the subject of a waiver of the Contracts Procedure Rules.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The proposal has been through a considerable consultation process involving Children's Services Senior Leadership team, Heads of Service, internal Family Intervention Service (FIS) providers, Social Work Services, Public Health and the Domestic Violence management group.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 An equalities impact screening has been completed and attached to this report. The results of the screening concluded that a full impact equality assessment was not required.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 This service fits with the Leeds Strategic Plan to be the best city for children and young people- helping them to live in safe and supportive families.

4.3.2 It also links to the headline priorities of the Children and Young People's plan, which includes:

- reducing the number of looked after children;
- increasing school attendance;
- reducing numbers of young people who are NEET.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 The annual value of the service will be £595,995. This provides considerable value for money for a city wide service on a key issue for the city. This also represents a £973,830 saving for targeted services. The project will work to the Families First

priorities so has the potential to generate payment by results on the set targets for this service.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The Chief Officer of Public Private Partnerships Unit & Procurement Unit has advised that it would be lawful for the Council to waive Contracts Procedure Rule 9.1 and 9.2 in these circumstances, provided that the Relevant Chief Officer of Children Services is satisfied that there are compelling reasons to do so.

This service falls under part B services of the European Legislation

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 The need for this contract to be fully operational for the 1st August does not allow for a time for a competitive process. The award of this contract for one year plus a possible one year extension means it would be less attractive to the market. Barnardo's have a highly skilled workforce who can deliver the service in the timescales given. The contract must become operational quickly for the local authority to be able to respond to the emerging priorities of the Troubled Families agenda (Families First). If there is a likelihood of extensions being invoked the service will be soft market tested to if there is competition for a longer term contract.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Leeds Children's Services has new priorities for its Families First (Troubled Families) initiative. In order to respond appropriately to the established need for family work in families where there is Domestic Violence a new service is being commissioned.
- 5.2 This service will work with families who are experiencing Domestic Violence and have come to the attention of duty and advice but do not reach the threshold of needing involvement of social work services.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 To waive contract procedure rule 9.1 and 9.2 and award a contract to Barnardo's to provide a service to work with families where domestic violence is an issue.

7 Background documents

- 7.1 A completed equalities impact screening for the proposed service.