

**Report of Chief Officer Social Work Services**

**Report to Deputy Director of Children’s Services Safeguarding, Specialist and Targeted**

**Date: 11/07/2014**

**Subject: To waiver to contract procedure rules 8.1 and 8.2 to establish a contract with Barnardo’s for Regulation 33 inspections.**



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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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 Children’s Services is required by Ofsted to have monthly inspections (Regulation 33 inspections) of its residential children’s homes.
2. These inspections used to be provided by an in house provision but under new Ofsted requirements have to be provided by an independent provider.
3. Barnardo’s has experience of providing Regulation 33 inspections and has other related contracts and are able to pick up the inspections quickly.
4. Establishing this contract with an external supplier will also provide a financial saving for the authority.

**Recommendations**

The Deputy Director, Safeguarding, Specialist & Targeted Services is recommended to waive CPRS 8.1 and 8.2 and award a contract with Barnardo’s to provide regulation 33 inspection visits. The contract will be for one year with two possible one year extensions.

## **Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To outline the need for regulation 33 visits.
- 1.2 To establish the reason to award to a third sector provider.
- 1.3 To outline why CPRs need to be waived.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Regulation 33 inspections are the independent inspections of residential children's homes.
- 2.2 The visits need to take place on a monthly basis and written up and presented to corporate carer's.
- 2.3 Regulation 33 inspection visits are an Ofsted requirement.
- 2.4 Earlier this year the regulations around the inspections changed and these now need to be independent from the local authority.

## **3 Main issues**

### **Reason for Contracts Procedure Rules Waiver**

- 3.1 The Ofsted requirements on regulation 33 inspections has now changed and there is an emphasis on needing an independent inspection.
- 3.2 Establishing a contract with a third sector provider will give the independence needed for the inspections.
- 3.3 Barnardo's has experience of conducting these inspections and is established in Leeds as a provider already.
- 3.4 The inspection need to be taken on quickly, an interim solution is in place but a longer term sustainable solution is needed.

### **Consequences if the proposed action is not approved**

- 3.5 The contract needs putting in place urgently as the interim arrangements are not sustainable.

### **Advertising**

- 3.6 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 A consultation has been under taken with the relevant heads of service, Barnardo's and social work delivery managers.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 An equalities impact screening has been completed and is included in appendix 1.

### **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

#### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

4.4.1 The annual cost of the service is £22,817 which is a saving on the in house provision.

#### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 This is a medium level contract and is below the threshold for call in.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 The main risk identified is if the contract not being put in place as the interim solution is not sustainable. It is a medium level contract so there is not a great risk of challenge.

### **5 Conclusions**

5.1 Awarding a contract to Barnardo's for Regulation 33 visits will provide the required independence required by Ofsted.

### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Deputy Director, Safeguarding, Specialist & Targeted Services is recommended to waive CPRS 8.1 and 8.2 and award a contract with Barnardo's to provide regulation 33 inspection visits. The contract will be for one year with two possible one year extensions.

### **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.