

Report of Commissioning Programme Manager

Report to Director of Children's Services

Date: 18th February 2015

Subject: Waiver of the Contracts Procedure Rule(s) in order to enter into contract with Igen for the delivery of Families First from April 2015

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. Families First Leeds is a programme funded nationally through the DCLG Troubled Families. Its aim is to help families with a number of complex problems by working with them to help turn their lives around, improving outcomes for the whole family and thereby reducing the need for more intensive and costly interventions. The programme in Leeds is delivered through Targeted services and existing cluster arrangements; it builds on existing good practice across the partnership.
2. The Leeds model is based on national research about how to achieve better outcomes for families, which recommends: having a single dedicated worker (e.g. lead professional/practitioner) for each family; addressing the needs of the whole family; setting a common purpose and having agreed outcomes; providing practical, hands-on support; and practitioners adopting an assertive and persistent approach. These principles are further summarised in Leeds as: 'one family, one plan, one worker'.

3. Igen currently deliver Families First work as a separate lot within their wider contract for Targeted Information Advice and Guidance (known as Connexions Leeds). They deliver Families First lead practitioners that support families where there are specific young people who are not in education, employment or training and deliver whole family support as part of the families first cohort.
4. The current contract will end on the 31st March 2015 so a new contract needs to be awarded for the work to continue from April 2015.
5. LCC wishes to enter into a new contract with Igen for Families First work. This will ensure continuity of service and allow for future planning.

Recommendations

6. The Director of Children's Services is recommended to approve the waiver of the following Contracts Procedure Rule(s):

Contracts Procedure Rules No 9.1 and 9.2 – High value procurements

and award a contract to Igen in the sum of £120,000. The contract shall commence on the 1st April 2015 and expire on the 31st March 2016.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report seeks a waiver to contracts procedure rules in respect of delivery of Families First work with families that include young people.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Families First Leeds is an initiative funded through the Government's national Troubled Families scheme. Its aim is to help families with a number of complex problems by working with them to help turn their lives around, improving outcomes for the whole family and thereby reducing the need for more intensive and costly interventions.
- 2.2 Leeds has developed the Families First scheme through building on our existing local cluster arrangements and partner relationships. The programme brings together agencies which are already working in communities, to ensure that their work is focused on improving outcomes for the whole family. The approach is restorative, working with rather than 'to' or 'for' families, and offering high support and high challenge to help families address multiple and complex problems.
- 2.3 The Leeds model is based on national research about how to achieve better outcomes for families, which recommends: having a single dedicated worker (e.g. lead professional/ practitioner) for each family; addressing the needs of the whole family; setting a common purpose and having agreed outcomes; providing practical, hands-on support; and practitioners adopting an assertive and persistent approach. These principles are further summarised in Leeds as: 'one family, one plan, one worker'.
- 2.4 The city-wide programme is coordinated at a strategic level by a small multi-agency team, which includes seconded staff from West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Probation and Jobcentre Plus alongside children's services staff.
- 2.5 Igen currently deliver Families First work as a separate lot within their wider contract for Targeted Information Advice and Guidance (known as Connexions Leeds). They deliver Families First lead practitioners that work alongside their Connexions Personal Advisers, to support families to turn their lives around.
- 2.6 The current contract will end on the 31st March 2015 so a new contract needs to be awarded for the work to continue from April 2015.

3 Main issues

Reason for Contracts Procedure Rules Waiver / Invocation

- 3.1 LCC wishes to enter into a new contract with Igen for Families First work. This will ensure continuity of service and allow for future planning.
- 3.2 In allowing the current provider of services to deliver services from April 2015, LCC will benefit from the following:

- Continuation of current provider ensures continuity in service delivery and would reduce the need for transfer or redundancy of staff. Contract monitoring arrangements indicate that the current provider is meeting their performance objectives.
- Current provider would offer the best value for money option to LCC, as an open market competition leading to changes of providers would not be possible in the timeframe available and would incur disproportionate transition costs.

3.3 There are no internal HR implications but a failure to act promptly will affect the capacity of Igen to deliver against our priorities.

3.4 The overall benefits of the contract are summarised below:

- Continuation of contract for delivery of services to meet identified needs will ensure that LCC is meeting it's duties for the delivery of services to children and young people.
- Ensuring performance measures and contract monitoring for current provider to ensure good quality. Igen will be asked to commit to maintain their existing service provision, and existing terms and conditions of contract.

Consequences if the proposed action is not approved

- 3.5 Risks have been identified if a decision is not taken on arrangements for April 2015
- The LA would not have capacity required to deliver Families First interventions in place from April 2015
 - NEET is a specific PbR measure in the expanded programme and IGEN provide expertise in this area. It could also impact on income generation as part of the PbR.
 - Delays or difficulties in agreeing contract changes / variations with continuing contracts impacts on the ability to implement chosen options for delivery.

Advertising

3.6 This contract will not be advertised.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Igen have been informed of the intention to award a future contract.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The award of new contract to Igen means that the current service delivery model will continue. The service will be to the same client group at the same value. The decision to continue delivery of current service arrangements will not have any adverse impact on any equality group.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 This contract delivers against the priorities set out in the Children and Young People's Plan:

- Support children to live in safe and supportive families
- Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected
- Support children to be ready for learning
- Improve behaviour, attendance and achievement
- Increase numbers in employment, education or training
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Increase participation, voice and influence
- Minimize the misuse of drugs, alcohol & tobacco by children & young.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1. The contract will be funded from the Families First budget.

4.4.2. The contract represents Value for Money by:

- Reducing disruption to existing service by ensuring continuity of current provider from April 2015.
- Ensuring performance measures and contract monitoring for current provider to ensure good quality delivery. Igen will be asked to commit to maintain their existing service provision, and existing terms and conditions of contract.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 The value of the contract is below the level for key decisions as prescribed within the council's constitution and therefore this decision is not subject to call-in.

4.5.2 Giving the work to this provider without competition could leave the Council open to a potential claim from other providers, to whom this contract could be of interest, that it has not been wholly transparent. In terms of transparency it should be noted that Contracts Procedure Rules suggests that contracts of this value should be subject to a degree of advertising. It is up to the Council to decide what degree of advertising is appropriate. In giving the work to this provider without competition there is a potential risk of challenge from other providers who have not been given the chance to tender for this opportunity.

4.5.3 Whilst there is no legal obstacle preventing the waiver of CPR 9.1 and 9.2, the above comments should be noted when making the final decision; the Director of Children's Services should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents Best Value for the Council.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 Risks of challenge from other providers due to the lack of opportunity to tender for this service.

- 4.6.2 In order to ensure good quality delivery and value for money Igen will be asked to commit to maintain their existing service provision, and existing terms and conditions of contract.
- 4.6.3 Proposals contained in this report will manage the risk of the market place becoming destabilised by future commissioning plans, as service providers are aware of the plans to commission services over the coming years.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Director of Children's Services is recommended to note the contents of this report and approve the waiver of the contracts procedure rules.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Director of Children's Services is recommended to approve the waiver of the following Contracts Procedure Rule(s):

Contracts Procedure Rules No 9.1 and 9.2 – High value procurements

and award a contract to Igen in the sum of £120,000. The contract shall commence on the 1st April 2015 and expire on the 31st March 2016.

7 Background documents