

**Report of Practice Development and Partnership Training Lead**

**Report to Chief Officer – Partnership Development**

**Date: 2/3/15**

**Subject: Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules to award a contract to Julie Archer Ltd for High Quality Delivery of Children’s Social Work Services Assessment and Supervision Training and Action Learning Sets Training**



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. Children’s Services Workforce Development wish to award a contract to Julie Archer Ltd for the delivery of high quality children’s social work service child and family assessment and supervision training and action learning sets training. The child and family assessment training and the action learning sets training is for newly qualified social workers (NQSW’s) as part of their assisted and supported year in employment (ASYE).
2. The report seeks permission to waive contract procedure rule 8 to award a contract to Julie Archer Ltd for the delivery of bespoke training on children’s social work service child and family assessment and supervision training and action learning sets training. The contract will be a call off contract for 3 years. Training will be called off according to need so the contract value will vary. The maximum value will be £13,515 p.a.

**Recommendations**

1. The Chief Officer – Partnership Development and Business Support is recommended to waive contract procedure rule 8.1 and 8.2 to award a contract to Julie Archer Ltd for the provision of bespoke training on children’s social work service child and family assessment and supervision training and action learning sets training for 3 years at a maximum value of £13,515 pa. The contract shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1. To seek approval for the award of a contract to Julie Archer Ltd for the delivery of bespoke training on children's social work service child and family assessment and supervision training and action learning sets training.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1. There is a need for bespoke child and family assessment and supervision training and action learning sets training within children's social work services. This training, facilitated by Julie Archer Ltd, is a response to this need. The aim of this contract is to ensure robust contract arrangements are in place to ensure quality delivery and value for money.
- 2.2. The aim of the assessment and supervision training is to ensure continual practice improvement and professional development. The aim of the action learning sets training is to provide a safe environment for NQSW's during their ASYE to help them meet the professional competencies framework. This contributes to the children and young people's plan in many forms including the three obsessions and ensures we are developing our staff as effective and safe practitioners. This could contribute to the safe and appropriate reduction of the numbers of children looked after.
- 2.3. The training has to be delivered by a provider whom is independent of the local authority.

## **3 Main issues**

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

- 3.1. A contract is required with Julie Archer Ltd to deliver high quality children's social work service child and family assessment and supervision training and action learning sets training.
- 3.2. Julie Archer Ltd is an experienced and very credible social worker and trainer and has proven experience in delivery of this training, which evaluates excellently. Julie has links with Leeds City Council and understands Leeds and its complexities as a large and diverse city.
- 3.3. It is unlikely that the council will obtain better value from another provider and therefore it is considered that this contract award delivers best value.

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

- 3.4. If a contract is not awarded to Julie Archer Ltd the likely outcome is we would not be able to provide the same high level of support and provide the required continual professional development (CPD) for social work practitioners. The Local Authority would also not be able to fulfill the requirements of the ASYE programme as set out by the Department for Education (DFE).

## **Advertising**

- 3.5. This contract opportunity has not been advertised. The contract value is below the current EU threshold, so there is no requirement for the contract to be tendered in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations but there is a requirement to comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 Initial consultation has taken place with Julie Archer Ltd to identify that she is able to deliver the service required.

4.1.2 No wider consultation has taken place with other potential service providers.

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

4.2.1. The equality, diversity, cohesion and integration screening form is attached as Appendix 1. This form identifies that an impact assessment is not required in this case.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1. The project will contribute to the Children and Young People's Plan priorities to:
- Ensure all children and young people are safe from harm.
  - Help children to live in safe and supportive families.
  - Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected.
  - Improve support where there are additional health needs.
  - Promote safe sexual health.

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

4.4.1. The contract will be a call off contract for 3 years. Training will be called off according to need so the contract value will vary. The session price is £635 per day and £325 per half day session. The maximum value will be £13,515 p.a.

4.4.2. The finance for this work is contained in the workforce development budget.

4.4.3. The child and family assessment training and the action learning sets is funded by the DFE to carry out the ASYE programme.

4.4.4. The supervision training is funded via practice education incomes which is generated from student placements.

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

4.5.1. This decision is not subject to call-in.

4.5.2. The decision to waive contract procedure rule 8 is a significant operational decision in line with contract procedure rule 27.

4.5.3. In making their final decision, the Chief Officer – Partnership Development should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents Best Value for the Council given that this contract opportunity has not been exposed to competition.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1. There is a risk that other providers are not in favour of the decision to award a contract without competition. As the contract value is under EU regulation value there is no legal requirement to subject the matter to competition.

#### **5 Conclusions**

5.1.1 A waiver of Contracts' Procedure Rule 8 in order to enter into a contract with Julie Archer Ltd will allow for the delivery of children's social work service child and family assessment and supervision training and action learning sets training.

#### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Chief Officer – Partnership Development and Business Support is recommended to waive contract procedure rule 8.1 and 8.2 to award a contract to Julie Archer Ltd for the provision of bespoke training on children's social work service child and family assessment and supervision training and action learning sets training for 3 years at a maximum value of £13,515 pa. The contract shall commence on the 1st April 2015 and expire on the 31st March 2018.

#### **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.