

Report of Head of Commissioning
Report to Chief Officer Partnership Development and Business Support

Date: 7th July 2015



Subject: Family Valued Commissioned Investment

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. The report sets out recommendations for service innovations for a number of internal and external services to work collaboratively with families supported by an expanded Family Group Conferencing Service (FGC). This will allow a time limited trail of a new approach to working with families to reduce domestic violence. The approach will be funded through the successful Children's Services DfE Innovation Fund Bid – **"Family Valued"**. It supports Leeds City Council's Breakthrough Project ambition for domestic violence.
2. The proposals have been guided by a multi- agency group with cross directorate expertise and have been approved by both the Family Valued Implementation and Design groups.
3. The proposal seeks to waive CPR 8.1 and 8.2 to award contracts to Women's Health Matters, Homestart and Barca . To vary contracts with Health for All and to waive CPR 9.1 and 9.2 to award a contract to NHS Leeds Community Healthcare (LCH)

Recommendations

4. The Chief Officer, Partnership Development & Business Support agreed to vary existing contracts with Health for All to enable them to incorporate the work emerging from the emerging early use of family group conferencing. To waiver CPR 8.1 and 8.2 to award contracts Homestart , Barca and Women's Health Matters and waiver CPR 9.1 and 9.2 to award contracts to LCH.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To outline the case for and gain approval to commissioning plans to support the innovative development in FGC for families experiencing domestic violence.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In February 2015 Leeds City Council was successful in winning a £4.8m bid to the DfE Innovations Fund. The purpose of the Innovations Fund is to stimulate innovation and extend the use of good practice to improve social care. The main focus of Leeds' bid is to embed Restorative Practice and FGC within the children's workforce and as the primary response to areas of need such as domestic violence wherever appropriate. The project and programme of work is called Family Valued reflecting the focus on family enablement as a route to better outcomes for children and adults.
- 2.2 An element of the bid proposal (£800K) was to commission organisations to work alongside this approach in two areas in new ways, the first through close alignment with FGCs for families experiencing domestic violence and secondly for parents close to the removal of their child or soon after the removal of their child (pre and post removal support). Funding is allocated as follows:-
- domestic violence, £550k
 - pre and post removal support, £250k
- 2.3 This paper offers proposals for the commissioning of both these elements of the bid. The commissioning will take the form of variation or waivers to establish contracts. This is in consideration of the one year timeline for the Family Valued expenditure. We concluded that competition would be unlikely to bring benefits to the project give the time taken to complete competition, the time taken for a potentially new provider to establish themselves in the role against the timeline of the Family Valued project and the short term nature of the contracts which would mean the likely appetite by fresh applicants would be low.

3 Main issues

Reason for waiver of contracts procedure rules

- 3.1 A small multiagency and cross directorate group met to meet to look at options and scoping for the investment. The group looked at current gaps in services and where the potential investment needs to be.

The priorities for investment were set to be:-

- Work with perpetrators / instigators of domestic violence

- Work with children and young people who have experienced domestic violence
- Work with victims/ women
- Family work post removal of a child by social work services and the courts
- Support work for women post removal
- Psychological work with families pre and post removal

3.2 A requirement will be made for all organisations contracted within this process to sign up to an agreement to a restorative way of working this includes work with or alongside with perpetrators/ instigators of domestic violence. The need for a family focus to initiatives is critical across all the proposed developments.

3.3 Once agreement is reached in these areas a fully detailed proposal will be drawn up in each of the areas, a service level agreement or contract will be drawn up. The services will be monitored by a review team and will feed through to the Family Valued Implementation Group and the Domestic Violence Strategy Group.

3.4 The Design Group have given approval to the proposals and services for expansion. The proposals are for both internal and external services and overview of all of the proposals is contained in this document. The services will all be subject to a service level agreement or contract and be monitored by a review team. The findings will feed through to the implementations group and the domestic violence strategy group. All contracts will be established for one year in line with the innovations funding.

3.5 **Domestic Violence Commissioning Proposals**

These proposals are set to link with the move to use FGC at an earlier stage of intervention with families than currently. This will mean the funded projects will be working at in more preventative stage of intervention than is currently seen. The work with perpetrators will be addressed by the expansions of the LCC delivered service Caring Dads. There will also be an expansion of the Parent And Children's Together services (PACT) that addresses children and young people's violence to their parents or carers and the development of a children and young people independent domestic violence advisor.

3.6 **Work with Women/ Victims.** Women's Health Matters are already working with women partners of the men accessing the Caring Dads group which is beneficial to the joined up ambition for support around a family experiencing domestic violence but this support is not available city wide. The Caring Dad's proposal will expand the perpetrators group work and this contract will enhance the Women's Health Matters groups alongside this. The investment in this area will be £55,000.

3.7 **Group work with children and young people who have witnessed domestic violence.** This will be delivered by Barca in the West and East of the city and will provide an expansion of their youth inclusion provision and in the South by Health for All. The cost across these two contracts will be £60,000.

3.9 Social Prescribing Initiative. This will establish a domestic violence pathway for perpetrators and victims that will be accessible via GP's pathways and will link to the patient empowerment project that is currently in its second year funded by West CCG. This will be new contracts for one year with an annual cost of £50,000. This will be awarded to BARCA.

4.0 Pre / Post Removal proposals

4.1 Intensive therapy for trauma. This project brings together two highly experienced clinical providers and enables them to deliver a targeted evidence based intervention in a non-clinical setting. These evidence based interventions will utilise elements of trauma focused cognitive behaviour therapy and reward based therapy. Both of these therapies have a robust independent evidence base. The work will support young women in danger of losing their first child in one cohort and with women who have already had a removal in another cohort. The work will seek to address both early life trauma and the unresolved loss and bereavement following a removal. The interventions will start at an early stage of pregnancy for young women at risk of losing a child and where there has been a previous removal to ensure that there is a better chance of preventing a removal safely. The investment in this piece of work is £200,000 this will be delivered by expanding the infant mental health team but worked alongside the Multi Systemic Therapy Team . Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), an in house service, and The Infant Mental Health Service provided by LCH (jointly commissioned by children's services, public health and Leeds NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups). Funding will therefore be applied partially by awarding a new contract to the infant mental health team for £200,000.

4.2 Family work and Counselling Support Post Removal. Homestart are an existing Leeds service provider that's service delivery is early intervention family support via a coordinated network of volunteers. They are well established in Leeds and work closely with targeted services. They recently have had funding awarded by North Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for a proposal for support for families where there has been a child previously removed. The project is a joint submission from Homestart and Leeds Women's Counselling and Therapy services the funding is for 18 months and plans to engage with 12 -18 parents . The project has an evaluation element provided by the University of Leeds. The service would have an open access approach and will remain available for families if they don't engage regularly. The monies from North Leeds CCG are an investment of £43,813 and the monies to expand this approach would be £32,052. The service is going through an award for a new contract this proportion of funding would be added to that.

4.3 One to One Support and Group Work. Women's Health Matters currently provide a services for LCC across a number of directorates. Their services include group support

for domestic violence and support for young women who have had a previous conception. They support women who have had previous removals and the service provides a good proposition for expanding one to one and group peer support to boost input in this area. The project has a good reach and engagement with communities that do not historically access services. The proposal would be to reach 36 women working with them via one to one support and group work focusing on peer support for all ages of women. The work would be set to address support needs of the women attending, assist them to understand fully why the child was removed, reduce drug and alcohol use and promote healthy outcomes. The cost of this work would be £45,000.

Consequences if the proposed action is not approved

- 4.4 The ambition of the Family Valued is to change the pattern of domestic violence in the city and its impact on children and families. Failure to approve will mean that this work will not progress and Leeds will continue to see a high impact on health and social work services from domestic violence.

Advertising

- 4.5 This contract has not been advertised through the OJEU open market process for the reasons outlined in section 3.2. It should be noted that this service is below the threshold of £625,000 for the light touch regime of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, therefore is not subject to the full regime as pertinent to the new light touch regime.

5 Corporate considerations

5.1 Consultation and engagement

- 5.1.1 The commissioning proposal was developed by a small cross directorate team within the council, this was led by children's social work services, but involved Safer Leeds, commissioning and Families First. It has also been to the innovation's funds design implementation and design teams these teams have representatives from chief officers and representatives from health.

5.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 5.2.1 An equalities impact screening has been completed for these commissioning proposals and indicated no need for further assessment.

5.3 Council policies and city priorities

- 5.3.1 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.

5.3.2 It also links to the headline priorities of the Children and Young People's plan these include

- reducing the number of looked after children

5.3.3 It also is in line with Leeds City Council Breakthrough project priorities.

5.4 Resources and value for money

5.4.1 All proposals have been subject to assessment from the Innovations Fund Design Group and the implementation team. The projects will be subject to service level agreements and service specifications and will be monitored.

5.5 Legal implications, access to information and call in

5.5.1 The value of the contract detailed within this report is below the level for call in.

5.6 Risk management

5.6.1 There is a clear risk in not establishing these contracts that the Innovation Fund strategy will not be able to be delivered and that the changes hoped for in the delivery of services to families will not be able to be achieved.

6 Conclusions

6.1 Establishing these contract will ensure services are in place to work with vulnerable children and families at an earlier stage after there has been family group conference.

7 Recommendations

7.1 The Chief Officer, Partnership Development & Business Support agreed to vary existing contracts with Health for All to enable them to incorporate the work emerging from the emerging early use of family group conferencing. To waiver CPR 8.1 and 8.2 to award contracts Homestart , Barca and Women's Health Matters and waiver CPR 9.1 and 9.2 to award contracts to LCH.

8 Background documents¹

8.1 None

¹ 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.

