



Report of Commissioning Programme Manager

Report to the Director of Children & Families

Date: 19.05.2017

Subject: Request to waive Contracts' Procedure Rules 8.1 and 8.2 in order to enter contract with Barca-Leeds at a value of £10,000 for a period of 6 months (with a further 6 month extension available) and to enter into a contract with Health for All at a value of £19,000 for a period of 6 months (with a further 6 month extension available).

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 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 type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The purpose of this report is to seek permission from the Deputy Director Safeguarding, Targeted and Specialist Services to waive Contracts' Procedure Rules 8.1 and 8.2 to enter into two contracts, one with Barca-Leeds and one with Health for All, for the provision of group work with children who have experienced domestic violence. Both these contracts will be for a period of 6 months with the option for a further 6 month extension available.
2. The contract with Barca-Leeds will cover the West Leeds area and will be for a total annual value of £20,000 therefore for the 6 month period the value is £10,000. The contract with Health for All will cover both South and East Leeds at an annual value of £38,000 therefore for the 6 month period the value is £19,000.
3. The services were originally funded via the Innovations Fund known in Leeds as Family Valued however in both cases these services were delivered alongside other elements of provision rather than as a stand-alone arrangement. Through the evaluation of the Family Valued Programme it was

identified that the group work with children could not continue without further investment.

4. This service fulfils an important function in allowing young people impacted by domestic violence an opportunity to explore their experiences and access support which can help them engage in positive relationships in future.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that the Director of Children & Families approves the recommendations below
6. The waiver of Contracts' Procedure Rule 8.1 & 8.2 in order to enter into a contract with Barca-Leeds for group work with children and young people who have experienced domestic violence in the west of the city for a period of 6 months with the option to extend for a further 6 months. The 6 month value is £10,000.
7. The waiver of Contracts' Procedure Rule 8.1 & 8.2 in order to enter into a contract with Health for All for group work with children and young people who have experienced domestic violence in the south and east of the city for a period of 6 months with the option to extend for a further 6 months. The 6 month value is £19,000.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval from the Director of Children and Families to waive Contracts' Procedure Rules 8.1 & 8.2 in order to enter into a 6 month contract with both Barca- Leeds and Health for All at values of £10,000 and £19,000 respectively.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Barca and Health for All were both commissioned to provide group work to children who have been impacted by domestic violence under the Family Valued Programme which utilised previously received Innovation Fund monies.
- 2.2 In the case of Health for All this service commenced in October 2015 and the service provided by Barca started slightly later in approximately January 2016. In both cases this work was integrated with other provisions funded by the Family Valued Programme. Barca were commissioned to provide both group work for children and a domestic violence social prescribing pathway whilst Health for All were commissioned to provide group work for children alongside Kinship carer support groups.
- 2.3 Funding provided under the Family Valued Programme ran until 31/03/2017 at which point no further funding was available. In late 2016 and early 2017 a piece of work was carried out to review the full range of externally commissioned services provided under the Family Valued Programme. This work aimed to identify the impact of the services provided and recommendations for future arrangements.
- 2.4 The starting point of the work undertaken was to identify whether the service provision was due to be picked up by another service, if there was learning or best practice that could be integrated into existing service provision or if there was a potential case for continuing to fund any of the Family Valued Provision through core budgets.
- 2.5 In early 2017 a report was presented to Children and Families Directorate Leadership Team which highlighted the group work with children and young people impacted by domestic violence as an activity that could not continue without funding and a priority for consideration of funding for 2017/18.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The provision of group work with children and young people who have experienced domestic violence with Barca and Health for All was previously funded by Innovations Funding through the Family Valued Programme. This funding came to an end on 31/03/2017.
- 3.2 Group work with children was highlighted as a priority for continued investment as there is no alternative service in place and this enables children and young people to explore their experiences and supports them to understand how to form positive relationships in future.

- 3.3 A review into the service outcomes has been undertaken by a Children and Families Project Support Officer which demonstrated very positive feedback from children and young people who engage in the group work. The review also highlighted that, as the group work was not commissioned as a standalone provision but in both cases was commissioned alongside other elements of service provision, it was very difficult to compare provisions and collate outcomes information.
- 3.4 Officers from the Commissioning and Market Management service, alongside those in the social work service have therefore met with both providers and discussed a more co-ordinated approach to service delivery and the recording and collation of outcomes information whilst still allowing the flexibility required to respond to local need and the needs for individual children and young people.
- 3.5 This report therefore requests a 6 month contract, with the option for a further 6 months, to be put in place with both Barca and Health for All to enable the group work to continue during which time further work can be done to better understand and evidence the outcomes achieved by group work with children across the city.
- 3.6 A further 6 month contract will also enable the review of Family Support Services which commences this month to progress. Through this review we can explore whether group work with children can be integrated into any newly developed family support model.
- 3.7 Strategic Priorities
- 3.7.1 Group work with children who have experienced domestic violence contributes to a number of key strategic priorities for the Children and Families Directorate within the *Children and Young People's Plan 2015- 19 – from good to great*.
- 3.7.2 The group work will particularly support the achievement of the outcome 'all children and young people are safe from harm' and priorities including 'help children to live in safe and supportive families' and 'ensure the most vulnerable are protected'.
- 3.8 Performance
- 3.8.1 Barca have traditionally provided the group work in the west of the city whilst Health for All have provided group work in the south and east.
- 3.8.2 Over the life of the project Barca have supported 47 children aged between 8-15 years of age through the delivery of 182 one-to-one and 34 group work sessions.
- 3.8.3 Health for All have engaged 80 children and young people over the life of their group work delivery whilst 74 young people have completed the programme of work.
- 3.8.4 A review of outcomes and how these are captured which was undertaken by a Project Support Officer on the graduate programme found that feedback the providers had received from children and young people was very positive regarding the group work activity and the positive impact that the work had had upon their lives.

3.8.5 The review also highlighted that both services were being delivered in a slightly different way and had developed different approaches to measuring and collating outcomes. This makes and larger scale collation of outcomes difficult and therefore presents challenges in being able to clearly evidence the full impact of this work across Leeds currently.

3.8.6 Conversations have taken place with both providers who are agreed to a core consistency in delivery approach and how performance and outcomes are measured. The services will be commissioned on this basis and contract managed together in a consistent manner.

3.9 Consultation and engagement

3.9.1 Consultation with both providers and officers within the social work service has taken place in developing these recommendations.

3.9.2 The review undertaken by the Project Support Officer involved meeting with providers, attendance at a number of group work sessions and reviewing of feedback both services had received directly from children and young people.

3.10 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

3.10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening document has been undertaken and there is no impact in respect of equality and diversity as the new contract will continue on the basis of the existing provision.

3.10.2 Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration will continue to be considered throughout the undertaking of the Family Support Review and considerations about the future of this kind of group work provision.

3.11 Council policies and best council plan

3.11.1 The outcomes this service will be commissioned against are those within the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan 2015 – 2019. This contract will contribute to a number of the outcomes and priorities within the plan including ensuring all young people are safe from harm and the priority to help children live in safe and supportive families and safely. It can also make a contribution to the key obsession to safely and appropriately reduce the number of Children Looked After by supporting children and families who have experienced domestic violence issues.

3.12 Resources and value for money

3.12.1 This report requests a total of £29,000 investment to continue to fund these services for a period of 6 months. Both providers have provided budgets which have been considered by officers in the Commissioning and Market Management service. During the Family Support Review further consideration will be given to the best and most cost effective way to deliver this support to children and young people in future.

3.13 Legal Implications, access to information and call in

- 3.13.1 This report seeks approval to waive Contracts' Procedure Rule and 8.1 & 8.2 to enter into contracts with Barca-Leeds and Health for All for the provision of group work with children who have experienced domestic violence for a period of 6 months with the option to extend for 6 months.
- 3.13.2 The decision requested is a significant operational decision and therefore not subject to call in. This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information under the Access to Information Rules.
- 3.13.3 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.
- 3.13.4 These risks may be mitigated to a degree by the fact that this report requests arrangements be put in place to ensure continuity of service whilst the Family Support Review is undertaken and longer term arrangements for this type of support to children and young people are considered. Consideration should be given to of exposing the service to competition following these discussions. Whilst there is no legal obstacle preventing the waiver of CPRs 8.1 and 8.2, the above comments should be noted when making the final decision. The Deputy Director Safeguarding, Targeted and Specialist should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents Best Value for the Council.

3.14 Risk management

- 3.14.1 In the event that the actions required in order to continue the delivery of group work with children and young people are not approved, continuity of this service provision could not be maintained. This could therefore have an impact on the council's priorities as outlined in the Child and Young People's Plan 2015-2019.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The Deputy Director Safeguarding, Targeted and Specialist Services is requested to note the contents of this report and to approve the waiver of Contracts' Procedure Rules 8.1& 8.2 in order to enter into a contracts with Barca-Leeds and Health for All for a period of 6 months with the option to extend for a further 6 months. The 6 month value for Health for All is £19,000 whilst the 6 month value for Barca is £10,000.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Director of Children & Families approves the recommendations below

The waiver of Contracts' Procedure Rule 8.1 & 8.2 in order to enter into a contract with Barca-Leeds for group work with children and young people who have

experienced domestic violence in the west of the city for a period of 6 months with the option to extend for a further 6 months. The 6 month value is £10,000.

The waiver of Contracts' Procedure Rule 8.1 & 8.2 in order to enter into a contract with Health for All for group work with children and young people who have experienced domestic violence in the south and east of the city for a period of 6 months with the option to extend for a further 6 months. The 6 month value is £19,000.

6 Background documents¹

6.1 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.