

**Report of the Head of Workforce Development**

**Report to the Chief Officer Partnerships**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Subject: Permission to enter into Partnership agreement**



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 Leeds and Wakefield Teaching Partnership which consists of Leeds City Council, Wakefield District council, University of Leeds and Leeds Beckett University has been awarded an outcome driven grant to enable them to deliver the aims and objectives of the newly formed Social Work Teaching Partnership
2. Leeds Children's Services is acting as the Lead partner to submit progress reporting and receive the agreed funding – which will happen on a quarterly basis
3. The total grant for 2017/18 is £412,091.00; of which it is estimated that Leeds Childrens services will receive £135,000
4. The lead partner will then allocate the funding to the 6 partners according to activity against the outcomes.
5. This report seeks permission to enter into this partnership agreement by way of an Inter-agency contract.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that approval is given to enter into this partnership agreement through an interagency contract in order for Leeds to act as Lead partner and claim and administer the grant funding.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report seeks to outline the purpose of the Leeds and Wakefield Social Work Teaching Partnership and the associated grant arrangements to enable Leeds City Council to approve the signing of the interagency contract.

## **2 Background information**

Grant funding is provided by the Social Work Reform Board to assist programme development for the Leeds and Wakefield Social Work Teaching Partnership. The Teaching Partnership comprises:

- Leeds City Council (lead organisation)
- Wakefield Council
- University of Leeds
- Leeds Beckett University

## **3 Main issues**

The strategic Vision of the partnership is outlined below

The Leeds Wakefield Social Work Teaching Partnership has outlined the following strategic vision:

- 3.1 develop and deliver a holistic approach to social work education and training;
- 3.2 to support the developing interest of those in the community who are considering social work as a career;
- 3.3 commence outreach work with schools, colleges and universities to encourage a diverse range of applications;
- 3.4 to enhance the standards of social worker students by accepting the highest calibre students and embedding a rigorous admissions process;
- 3.5 to provide an enhanced, flexible and responsive employer led curriculum;
- 3.6 to enhance the 'Readiness to Practice' process to ensure students are fit for their first LA placement;
- 3.7 to work together to align student intake with predicted workforce planning exercises across the two LAs and the wider Northern region;
- 3.8 to develop partnership standards for Practice Education to ensure high quality practice education;
- 3.9 to ensure each LA offers quality statutory placements in both adults and Children's Services.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 Leeds city council and other partners were fully involved in and consulted with in writing the successful bid document which subsequently was awarded the funding. Ongoing involvement and consultations with service users, carers and partners is integrated into the programme plan.

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

4.2.1 An EDCI screening has been completed and raised no concerns. Attached at Appendix 1

### **4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan**

4.3.1 The Best Council Plan 2017/18 sets out seven priority areas of work, of which this work will contribute towards:

- Better lives for people with care and support needs; and,
- (Building) a child friendly city.

The work will also contribute towards:

- Our obsession to reduce the need for children to enter care, as set out in the Children and Young People's Plan; and,
- Early identification and support for vulnerable families early in the life of the child, as set out in the Leeds Best Start Plan.

### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 This is additional funding to help us continue our improvement in social work education to make our student employer ready and to improve retention; thus reducing recruitment and induction costs; as well as providing better service for our families and children.

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

4.5.1 A legal interagency contract has been drawn up to agree how the partners will work together to deliver the outcomes of the grant funded programme

4.5.2 The value of Leeds share of the funding is less than £250k per annum and therefore is not a key decision and is not subject to call-in

### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 Risk register is managed through the creation of a Partnership management board.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 Entering into a Partnership agreement will enable Leeds to lead the Social Work Teaching Partnership and deliver the outcomes and so improve social work admissions, educations, placements, curriculum, on-going continuous professional development and improve retention

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 It is recommended that approval is given to enter into this partnership agreement through an interagency contract in order for Leeds to act as Lead partner and claim and administer the grant funding.

## **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.