



Report of Commissioning Manager, Children and Families

Report to Director of Children and Families

Date: 17/09/2019

Subject: Request to extend the current Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People (16-25 Years) Framework Agreement as a direct consequence of previous key decision D47900



Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open 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

• Main issues

- This report seeks approval to extend the current Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement for one 6-month period. This extension is in line with Contract Procedure Rules 21.1, 21.2, 21.3 and 21.4.
- This decision can be taken as a significant operational decision due to the direct consequence exemption. The preceding key decision D47900 included the extension option within the initial decision to procure.
- The current Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement commenced in January 2019 and is due to expire on 31 January 2020. Within the current framework there is the option to extend for one 6-month period from 1 February 2020 to 31 July 2020.
- The preceding White Rose Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement commenced

in December 2014 and ended in December 2018; this Framework Agreement was a regional agreement and included 10 other Local Authorities across the Yorkshire and Humber. The strategic commissioners across the region agreed changes to future direction for local provision to meet the accommodation and support needs for care leavers and vulnerable young people (16-25 years) as opposed to a regional arrangement.

- Following the extension period a joint commission between Strategy and Commissioning and Children and Families will be in place. This work jointly commissions one service that meets the full range of accommodation and support needs of vulnerable young people and care leavers in Leeds.
- If the current framework were to end without having the extension in place there would be a gap before the jointly commissioned work would commence. Placements would have to continue to be made but it would mean that these unregulated providers would be outside of the scope of a contract and its terms and conditions against which to deliver quality provision.
- Prices are fixed for the lifetime of the framework including the extension option. In line with CPRs 3 and 21.1 around extensions delivering Best Value, if the current framework were to end without having the extension in place the fixed prices would no longer apply and we could see inflated prices for the same provisions.
- Forecasted spend for 2018/19 for leaving care services in Leeds was in excess of £4m; annual spend in relation to this interim agreement is in the region of £3m.
- **Best Council Plan Implications** (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)
 - Priorities including continuing to be a Child-Friendly City, Health & Wellbeing, Housing, and Safe Strong Communities are embedded within the Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement.
 - The outcomes within the Best Council Plan are embedded into the contractual documentation as well as each young person's Individual Placement Agreement and providers are quality measured against these outcomes.
 - Contract management processes including the Quality Management Framework ensure providers continue to work to the priorities and outcomes detailed within the Best Council Plan.
- **Resource Implications**

- Forecasted spend for 2018/19 for leaving care services in Leeds was in excess of £4m; annual spend in relation to this interim framework agreement is in the region of £3m.
- Placements are made against this framework on a call-off basis enabling Leeds to make placements as required. There is no commitment to any expenditure and offers providers on the framework no guarantee of placements.
- Prices are fixed for the lifetime of the framework including the extension option.
- Robust contract management will ensure quality service delivery, improved outcomes for young people and focussed discussions to ensure placement quality and value for money continue to be achieved.
- The quality and value of the service will continue to be monitored by the Children and Families Commissioning and Market Management Team. Intelligence gained through this will continue to be used to inform the joint commissioning work between Strategy and Commissioning and Children and Families.
- The current framework ensures that all relevant and current law is embedded.
- **The Recommendations**
 - a) The Director of Children and Families is recommended to give agreement to extend the Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 Years) Framework Agreement. The framework is due to expire on 31 January 2020; the extension period would run from 1 February 2020 to 31 July 2020.
 - b) The annual contract value was estimated to be around £3m based on actual 2017/18 expenditure. It is not anticipated that costs will exceed these amounts.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend the current Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement. The framework is due to expire on 31 January 2020; the extension period would run from 1 February 2020 to 31 July 2020.
- 1.2 This extension is in line with Contract Procedure Rules 21.1, 21.2, 21.3 and 21.4.
- 1.3 This decision can be taken as a significant operational decision due to the direct consequence exemption. The preceding key decision D47900 included the extension option within the initial decision to procure.

- 1.4 The Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement is an interim position that supports Leeds City Council to identify placements within the constraints of an agreed contract specification and terms and conditions against which to deliver quality accommodation and support for children and vulnerable young people (16-25 years).
- 1.5 Placements are made on a call-off basis, there is no commitment to any expenditure and providers on the framework are not guaranteed placements. The forecasted value of the extension is not likely to exceed the predicted contract values.
- 1.6 Following the framework extension period, the jointly commissioned work between Strategy and Commissioning and Children and Families will be live. If the current framework were to end without having the extension in place there would be a gap before the jointly commissioned work would commence. Placements would have to continue to be made but it would mean that these unregulated providers would be outside of the scope of a contract and its terms and conditions against which to deliver quality provision.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 amended the Children's Act 1989 and this, along with the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 and the Children's Social Work Act 2017 increased the powers and duties on Local Authorities to better support young people leaving care through support and accommodation arrangements to improve the life chances of young people leaving Local Authority care. It's main aims are to delay young people's discharge from care until they are prepared and ready to leave, to improve the assessment, preparation and planning for leaving care, to provide better personal support for young people after leaving care, and to improve the financial arrangements for young people in and leaving care.
- 2.2 The preceding White Rose Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 Years) Framework Agreement commenced in December 2014 and ended in December 2018. This was a regional framework including 10 other Local Authorities across the Yorkshire and Humber. The strategic commissioners across the region agreed changes to future direction for local provision to meet the accommodation and support needs for care leavers and vulnerable young people (16-25 years) as opposed to a regional arrangement.
- 2.3 The current Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement commenced in January 2019 and is due to expire on 31 January 2020. The extension period is planned to be from 1 February 2020 to 31 July 2020.
- 2.4 The jointly commissioned work between Strategy and Commissioning and Children and Families is due to be live from July 2020.

2.5 In order to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 extension of the current Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement is required to continue to meet the needs of care leavers and vulnerable young people in Leeds.

3. Main issues

3.1 The end date of the extension period is aligned to the commencement of the jointly commissioned work of Strategy and Commissioning and Children and Families.

3.2 If the current framework were to end without having the extension in place there would be a gap before the jointly commissioned work would commence. Placements would have to continue to be made but it would mean that these unregulated providers would be outside of the scope of a contract and its terms and conditions against which to deliver quality provision.

3.3 In order to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 extension of the current Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement is required to continue to meet needs of care leavers and vulnerable young people in Leeds.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 Chief Executives and DCSs have been updated during the progress of the placements programme since the commencement of the White Rose Frameworks in 2014.

4.1.2 Strategic commissioners across the Yorkshire and Humber region jointly agreed to move from a regional collaborative model to a local model from December 2018 to specifically meet accommodation and support needs for care leavers and vulnerable young people at a local level.

4.1.3 Young people were involved in the development of the specification for the preceding White Rose Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 Years) Framework Agreement, which is closely related to this framework.

4.1.4 The provider market has been consulted and engaged with during the commissioning of the Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement.

4.1.5 For the extension take-up specifically, agreement has been sought from the Head of Service, Looked After Children, Children and Families, the Head of

Commissioning and Market Management, Children and Families and the Head of Finance, Resources and Housing.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 An equalities impact screening has been completed and is attached to this report.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The Council policies are priorities are reflected in the Framework.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 References to the Climate Emergency declared at Full Council on 27 March 2019 are included in the tender documentation for the joint commission between Strategy and Commissioning and Children and Families that follows this framework.

4.3.3 The Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement was commissioned prior to the climate emergency being declared, and as such this is not referenced within the tender documentation. Existing contract management processes within the framework can be adapted to bring existing providers attentions to the Council's ambitions in this regard.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 Forecasted spend for 2018/19 for leaving care services was in excess of £4m. Spend in relation to the Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework Agreement is £3m annually.

4.4.2 Placements are made against this framework on a call-off basis enabling Leeds to make placements as required. There is no commitment to any expenditure and offers providers on the framework no guarantee of placements.

4.4.3 Robust contract management ensures quality service delivery, improved outcomes for young people, and focussed discussions to ensure placement quality and value for money continue to be achieved.

4.4.4 The Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 years) Framework ensures that all relevant and current law is embedded.

4.4.5 The quality and value of the service will continue to be monitored by the Children and Families Commissioning and Market Management Team. Intelligence gained through this will continue to be used to inform the joint commissioning work between Strategy and Commissioning and Children and Families.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 This decision can be taken as a significant operational decision due to the direct consequence exemption. The preceding key decision D47900 included the extension option within the initial decision to procure.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 Contract management processes will ensure that value for money continues to be a key assessment during the operational phase of the framework.

4.6.2 Prices are fixed for the term of the framework including the extension period with no opportunity for providers to re-submit their base costs attributable to their provision of service.

4.6.3 Quality Assurance processes and integration of the Quality Management Framework ensures that providers are continually monitored in respect of the quality of provision and that placements are only made with those providers demonstrating quality services.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The Director of Children and Families to give agreement to extend the Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 Years) Framework Agreement for the period from 1 February 2020 to 31 July 2020.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Director of Children and Families is recommended to give agreement to extend the Leeds Interim Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support (16-25 Years) Framework Agreement. This framework is due to expire on 31 January 2020; the extension period would run from 1 February 2020 to 31 July 2020.

6.2 The annual contract value was estimated to be around £3m based on actual 2017/18 expenditure. It is not anticipated that costs will exceed these amounts.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 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.