

Appendix 2

Extract from the Locality website, showcasing:

A Case Study from a third sector perspective about an Advice Services Commissioning process which 'Kept it Local' in Leeds

This is used as an illustration of a 'Keep it Local' approach, including delivering added social value, spending the Leeds pound in Leeds, investing in the local infrastructure and significantly demonstrating the value of co-production and collaboration in commissioning.

Better Leeds Communities and the commissioning of advice services

Better Leeds Communities is a Leeds charity that was established in 1983. It exists to create opportunities that enable people in Leeds to achieve their potential by raising aspirations, removing barriers and developing abilities that lead to a better life. It delivers a wide range of services across the city, from social prescribing to play activity and children's services, to a variety of different advice services. Better Leeds Communities also play an active role in encouraging volunteering in the communities in which they operate. In 2016, 132 people volunteered with the charity to support their work.

Advice in Leeds

Since 2014, Better Leeds Communities have delivered a citywide advice contract, in conjunction with Citizen Advice Leeds (CAL) and Citizen Advice Chapeltown (CAC) Their specific focus is on the delivery of outreach advice in 14 Children's Centres across the city. The service, aimed at pregnant women and parents of children aged under five, provides appointments in local neighbourhoods and offers legal advice on benefits, housing and debt issues. Their service works with 760 people per year.

Co-production and community capacity

Leeds City Council invested time and money into co-production workshops ahead of tendering for the citywide advice service. Through these workshops, they utilised the experience of service-users and expertise of locally rooted organisations like Better Leeds Communities to co-design the service.

A belief in the importance of building and protecting community infrastructure has been central to Leeds' corporate and political identity for a number of years – and this senior level support underpinned a commissioning approach centred on collaboration with the community.

Social value

In order to maximise local social value, the commissioning team wrote a series of requirements into the tender. In order to meet the contract's social value specifications, the successful organisation had to demonstrate they had a physical base – and track record of delivery – in the local area, as well as possessing knowledge of local people and the place.

Direct Award Contract

This collaborative commissioning approach resulted in the commissioning team using a Single Tender Action – also known as a Direct Award Contract, where a commissioner directly awards a contract to a provider, or consortium of providers, by a negotiated procedure. Following a market-sounding exercise, Leeds City Council recognised that the consortium were the only option which demonstrated the experience, expertise and capability to deliver the service within the city – and so chose not to run a competitive contracting process.

Taira Kayani, Chief Executive of Better Leeds Communities, said

"The bidding process allowed us to demonstrate our track record of delivering advice services to the specific client group in the settings specified within the service specification. We were able to build on the excellent relationships with our hosts (Children's Centres) and service users are able to continue to access a trusted service within their local area."