

Report of Commissioning & Market Management Team

Report to Chief Officer – Social Work Services

Date: 8th March 2021

**Subject: Child Sexual Exploitation Training for Professionals -
Permission to waive CPRs (Contract Procedure Rules) 8.1 and 8.2 to
award a contract to Basis Yorkshire for 12 months**



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| 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 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 |
| 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

1. Main issues

- The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award contract to Basis Yorkshire for Training in regards to CYP who are medium and high risk of CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation). This decision involves waiving CPRs 8.1 and 8.2 – Intermediate Value Procurements. The contract will be for 12 months.
- Children and Families has an existing contract with Basis Yorkshire for the delivery of training and also provides early intervention and support services to help meet the needs of girls, boys and young women/men at medium to high risk of experiencing child sexual exploitation. This contract expires on 31st March 2021.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable.

3. Resource Implications

- The budget available for this contract is £21,000 per annum. Children & Families Senior Leadership have committed to this funding in recognition of the value that this contract brings.

- The anticipated spend will be between £18,000 and £21,000 per annum. This will be paid half from the 81579 budget and half from the Social Work Practice Education budget 50498.
- This is a call-off arrangement.
- The budget for this service is a challenge and Basis Yorkshire have an excellent track record at securing charitable funding to support their ongoing work in Leeds.

Recommendations

- a) The Chief Officer – Social Work Services is recommended to approve the waiver of Contract Procedure Rules no 8.1 and 8.2 in order to award a contract to Basis Yorkshire, without seeking competition, in the sum of £21,000 per annum. The contract shall commence on the 1st April 2021 and expire on the 31st March 2022.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to waive Contract Procedure Rules 8.1 and 8.2 in order to award contract to Basis Yorkshire, without seeking competition, for a period of 12 months from 1st April 2021.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Children and Families has an existing contract with Basis Yorkshire to provide early intervention and support services to help meet the needs of girls, boys and young women/men at risk of or experiencing child sexual exploitation. The parallel agreement with Basis Yorkshire to provide training to SW professionals around CSE is to expire on 31st March 2021.
- 2.2 The main purpose of the service is to reduce the risk of child sexual exploitation for individual girls, boys and young women/men by engaging with and supporting professionals to assess, respond and provide support to medium and/or high risk cases of CSE.
- 2.3 The service provides information on a range of related services as appropriate, such as drug and alcohol services, mental health services, youth and community services, school nursing services and other such services as deemed appropriate.
- 2.4 In February 2017 the Government published a definition of Child Sexual Exploitation for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation¹. The guidance and definition highlights the complexity of Child Sexual Exploitation and how it can be difficult for those working with children to identify and assess. The definition provided is as follows:
- 2.5 *“Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology”*
- 2.6 CSE can affect all children and young people from any background. It happens to boys and young men as well as girls and young women. However some groups of children are particularly vulnerable such as, disabled children, children looked after, care leavers, migrant children, unaccompanied asylum seeking children, homeless children and those missing from home and care².

3. Main issues

¹ Child sexual exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners, local leaders and decision makers working to protect children from child sexual exploitation, DfE, 2017

² Leeds Safeguarding Children Board, <https://www.leedslscb.org.uk/About-us/Child-Sexual-Exploitation/What-is-CSE>

Reasons for contracts procedure rules waiver

- 3.1 Awarding a contract for 12 months ensures continuity of training and support to SW professionals and brings the end date of 31st March 2022 in line with the superseding Basis Yorkshire contract to deliver direct support to CYP in relation to CSE.

Consequences if the proposed action is not approved

- 3.2 This decision is needed to secure this important training around vulnerable girls, boys and young women/men at risk of CSE. Without this service, SW professionals may not have access to the necessary information and support which can help reduce risk and help them achieve positive outcomes

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The current provider has been consulted throughout the process of reviewing the service and has been kept up to date with plans for the contract.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 An equality impact screening form has been completed and is attached as appendix 1, which shows no detrimental impact as a result of this decision.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The service will contribute to the Child and Young People's Plan outcome one: 'All children and young people are safe from harm', and priority two 'ensure that the most vulnerable are protected'.
- 4.3.2 CSE is a priority for Leeds City Council, being one of the 'Equality Improvement Priorities 2016-20'. To protect children from child sexual exploitation is seen as essential to being a compassionate city. The key indicator of, 'Number of domestic violence and abuse incidents with repeat victims' is reflected in the Best Council Plan. CSE is also a priority for LSCP. The LSCP is committed to working in partnership with the third sector, and, 'to further develop and embed the partnership response to children and young people who are suffering / at risk of sexual exploitation and / or 'go missing'.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 The budget available for this contract is £21,000 per annum. Children & Families Senior Leadership have committed to this funding in recognition of the value that this contract brings.
- 4.4.2 This is a call-off arrangement. The anticipated spend will be between £18,000 and £21,000 per annum. This will be paid half from the 81579 budget and half from the Social Work Practice Education budget 50498.
- 4.4.3 The budget for this service is a challenge and Basis Yorkshire have an excellent track record at securing charitable funding to support their ongoing work in Leeds.

- 4.4.4 The contract will need to be closely monitored to ensure spend doesn't exceed expected levels.
- 4.4.5 Basis Yorkshire will be required to submit a Service Cost analysis Form (SCAF) as part of this contract award. The SCAF will be used to identify any potential areas for saving as part of this interim contract.
- 4.4.6 The quality and value for money of the service will continue to be monitored by the Commissioning and Market Management Service, Children & Family Services.

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

- 4.5.1 This is a Significant Operational Decision, which is not subject to Call In and there are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information Rules.
- 4.5.2 There is a risk of an ombudsman investigation arising from a complaint that the Council has not followed reasonable procedures, resulting in a loss of opportunity. Obviously, the complainant would have to establish maladministration. It is not considered that such an investigation would necessarily result in a finding of maladministration however such investigations are by their nature more subjective than legal proceedings.
- 4.5.3 Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the waiver of CPR 8.1 and 8.2, the content of the report should be noted. In making their final decision, the Chief Officer – Social Work Services should be satisfied that the approved course of action represents best value for the Council.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 There is a potential risk of challenge from other providers who have not been given the chance to tender for this opportunity, however, there aims to be a tendering exercise during the period of this contract. The Chief Officer – Social Work Services is asked to accept this request for the reasons stated within this report.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 This decision will help ensure that SW professionals are suitably equipped to identify, assess and understand CSE and its related issues and that girls, boys and young women/men at medium to high risk of CSE are safe and will achieve positive outcomes by contracting with a well- established and experienced provider.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Chief Officer – Social Work Services is recommended to approve the waiver of Contract Procedure Rules no 8.1 and 8.2 in order to award a 12 month contract to Basis Yorkshire, without seeking competition, in the sum of £21,000 per annum. The contract shall commence on the 1st April 2021 and expire on the 31st March 2022.

7. Background documents³

None³

³ 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.