

Approval for One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY) to call off the Approved Providers List (APL) for Therapeutic Services 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2027

Date: 30/03/2022

Report of: Head of Service, One Adoption West Yorkshire

Report to: Director of Children and Families

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report seeks approval for One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY) to call off the Approved Providers List (APL) for Therapeutic Services 01 April 2022 – 31 March 2027
- This proposal supports the 2020-25 Best Council Plan priority to make Leeds a Child Friendly City where families are supported to give children the best start in life

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children and Families is recommended to approve the award of call off contracts by One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY) from the Approved Providers List (APL) for Therapeutic Services for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027 at a maximum estimated value of £11,620,000.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The Yorkshire & Humber Region currently commissions an Approved Provider List (APL) throughout the region for the delivery of Therapeutic Services to families and individuals. The procurement and contract management is led by North Yorkshire County Council, for which OAWY pays North Yorkshire County Council a small annual fee.
- 2 This requirement emanated from the Government's initiative to provide an Adoption Support Fund to Local Authorities to support adoptive families.
- 3 The current APL is due to expire on 31st March 2022 and North Yorkshire County Council has completed a new procurement to establish a new APL from 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2027.
- 4 OAWY will need to call off the APL to secure contracts with therapeutic support providers throughout the period of the new APL.
- 5 Providers of therapeutic services for adoptive families are required to be registered with Ofsted as an adoption support agency, either in their own right or under the registration of the commissioning adoption agency. The potential client group to receive these services can include but are not limited to:
 - Birth relatives
 - Adopted adults
 - Adoptive families
 - Families affected by special guardianship
 - Foster families
 - Children placed for fostering
 - Looked after children
 - Children and young people who are part of the Youth Justice System
 - Those whom a region member believe would benefit from an intervention of this nature.
- 6 The Adoption Support Fund is also going to be extended to those children subject to Residence and Child Arrangement Orders also, so widening the possible scope for whom the APL could be accessed.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 7 No individual wards in Leeds will be impacted by these proposals because the provision is delivered on a regional basis.
- 8 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening document has been undertaken. This identifies there is no impact in respect of equality and diversity as a result of this decision because it continues existing arrangements.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 9 There are no legal or statutory requirements to undertake consultation as part of this decision. Consultation takes place regularly with regional partners at the OAWY Board, where the

continuation of the APL by way of a procurement led by North Yorkshire County Council was approved.

What are the resource implications?

- 10 All spend called off the APL by OAWY will be DfE funded from successful Adoption Support Fund bids.
- 11 The estimated spend by OAWY for the period of the APL is £11,620,000. This is joint spent for the West Yorkshire region.
- 12 This figure is based on 90% of the estimated Adoption Support Fund spend by OAWY over the next five years. Adoption Support Fund spend in 2021/22 is estimated to be £2,098,000. Approximately 80-90% of this has been spent on therapeutic services through the current APL. Adoption Support Fund spend is projected to increase by approximately 7% annually.
- 13 The APL is to be awarded by North Yorkshire County Council who are responsible for the tender and contract management. As host of OAWY, Leeds City Council is responsible for calling off the APL.

What are the legal implications?

- 14 This report involves a key decision due to the value and so is subject to call in. The intention to take a key decision was published on the List of Forthcoming Key Decisions on 07/03/2022 and can be implemented from 06/04/2022.
- 15 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information under the Access to Information Rules.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 16 Performance and quality will be monitored closely by OAWY to ensure families receive excellent therapeutic services.
- 17 The budget will be monitored to ensure that Adoption Support Fund bids are successfully made and funding received to cover all spend called off the APL by OAWY.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 18 This proposal provides strong support for the refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan and the Council's ambition to be a Child Friendly City. The outcomes delivered through this contract will contribute to a number of the outcomes and priorities within the plan, including the outcome to ensure all young people are safe from harm and the priority to help children live in safe and supportive families

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 19 No other options were considered for the reasons outlined in this report.

How will success be measured?

- 20 Call off contracts will be awarded which will include performance indicators to be measured as part of ongoing contract management by OAWY. The Adoption Support Fund are moving

towards outcome measures being a requirement of providers. The call off contract documents will be reviewed to ensure their requirement is included.

What is the timetable for implementation?

21 The existing APL is due to expire on 31/03/22 and so following approval for this decision and the call off period expiring, new call off contracts will be awarded.

Appendices

22 Equality Impact Screening Form.

Background papers

23 None.