

Permission to receive Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) funding from DWP, to directly award a contract to Triple P for associated training and recruit to a new RPC Coordinator post

Date: 6th June 2022

Report of: Commissioning Manager

Report to: Deputy Director – Social Care

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

- The report seeks approval to:
 - Receive Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) funding from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP).
 - Directly award a contract to Triple P utilising contract procedure rule (CPR) 8.3 for training associated with the Leeds reducing parental conflict programme: Relationship Matters.
 - Recruit a fixed term RPC Coordinator post on a PO4 salary scale.
- This proposal supports the 2020-25 Best Council Plan priority to make Leeds a Child Friendly City where children & young people are supported to improve social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing and are supported to be safe and feel safe.

Recommendations

- a) The Deputy Director – Social Care is recommended to approve the receipt of £198,302.36 funding from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP). The first year of funding commences on 14th June 2022 until 31st March 2023 (£111, 107.73) and the second year of funding commences 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024 (£87,194.63). Year 2 is indicative funding at this stage and the final figure will be confirmed prior to commencement of year 2.
- b) The Deputy Director – Social Care is recommended to approve the award of a new contract using Contract Procedure Rule 8.3 to Triple P for provision of training associated with reducing parental conflict in line with the Leeds Relationship Matters programme. The contract shall be for the period 30/06/22 to 31/03/24. The total value of the contract is £28,721 (excluding VAT). This is the value for the full contract duration.

- c) The Deputy Director – Social Care is recommended to approve the recruitment of a fixed term RPC Coordinator post on a PO4 salary scale. The position will be recruited to as soon as permission has been granted and will be until this current funding expires. If further funding is secured then permission will be sought to extend the position.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Leeds has received funding from the DWP as part of the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) Programme since 2018. The programme is known locally as Relationship Matters
- 2 The national RPC programme aims to promote improved outcomes for children, with a focus on disadvantaged families. Its objectives are to:
 - develop the evidence base on what works to reduce parental conflict, to inform future commissioning practice
 - help local areas integrate support to reduce parental conflict in local services for families
- 3 Leeds have utilised previous RPC funding in practice development including formal workforce development to practitioners and also training directly to parents/carers.
- 4 We have been notified that we have been successful in securing further funding for the RPC Programme (Relationship Matters) for two years, with a strong possibility of extending into year three.
- 5 Triple P have previously been commissioned by Children & Families to facilitate online training for parents: Triple P online.
- 6 Triple P are a recognised partner within the national RPC programme and are commissioned by a number of Local Authority RPC partners.
- 7 Triple P is one of a small number of evidence based parenting programmes which aims to address the impact of parental conflict on children.
- 8 Triple P online has been well received with parents; particularly during the pandemic and practitioners report improved outcomes for many families who have taken part in the online training.
- 9 A need has been identified to have a next/additional layer of training for families who needs have not been able to be met with Triple P online training.
- 10 We are therefore looking to commission Triple P to deliver a train the trainer model to identified staff in priority clusters. Once trained, practitioners, will be able to deliver face to face training to families that builds on what they will have already learnt during the online training. Transitions Triple P will also support parents who have not undertaken any previous parenting courses.
- 11 Commissioning Triple P, as opposed to another organisation/parenting programme, is considered an appropriate course of action as it:
 - a) Builds on training that families have already received; therefore families are not having to start over again with a completely different programme of training. This will ensure we maintain engagement with families and therefore are likely to achieve improved outcomes quicker for the whole family which ultimately saves money.
 - b) Ensures a clear, cohesive and consistent package of RPC training across the city. If we were to commission a different organisation practitioners would be supporting families who may have received different packages of training. This would require all practitioners to be

proficient in multiple packages of training and approaches to RPC which would create duplication and would not be an efficient use of practitioners' time.

- c) The train the trainer model available through Triple P provides a sustainable and cost effective approach to rolling out RPC training to parents across the city.

12 To benchmark the training provision for value for money we referred to the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) guidebook. EIF have awarded Family transitions (Triple P training) a 3 for evidence and a 1 for cost. A rating of 1 indicates that a programme has a low cost to set up and deliver, compared with other interventions reviewed by the Early Intervention Foundation. We are therefore confident that this approach delivers value for money.

13 A need has been identified to recruit an RPC Coordinator post. The position will be a PO4 salary scale and will be situated within the Families First Team in the Children & Families directorate.

14 The position will be recruited to as soon as permission has been granted and will be until this current DWP RPC funding expires. If further funding is secured then permission will be sought to extend the position.

15 The functions and responsibilities will include:

- a) Being the main point of contact for Relationships Matters
- b) Linking with other RPC programmes; locally, regionally & nationally
- c) Leading on strategy, engagement and workforce development
- d) Support delivery & oversight of commitments and plans described in the RPC funding application to DWP.
- e) Securing additional funding for Relationship Matters

15 A job description has been drafted and will be evaluated prior to recruitment commencing.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

16 No individual wards in Leeds will be impacted by these proposals because the provision is delivered in communities across the city.

17 This proposal supports the 2020-25 Best Council Plan priority to make Leeds a Child Friendly City where children & young people are supported to improve social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing and are supported to be safe and feel safe.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

18 There are no particular legal or statutory requirements to undertake consultation as part of this decision.

19 PACS have been consulted and have advised that use of CPR 8.3 is appropriate on this occasion.

20 HR have been consulted to confirm this approach to recruitment is appropriate and in line with Council recruitment policy.

What are the resource implications?

- 21 The total funding income from DWP across 22/23 and 23/24 is £198,302.36. The first year of funding commences on 14th June 2022 until 31st March 2023 (£111, 107.73) and the second year of funding commences 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024 (£87,194.63). Year 2 is indicative funding at this stage and the final figure will be confirmed prior to commencement of year 2. A subsequent will decision will be sought if the value of funding for year 2 changes.
- 22 The contract with Triple P is for the period 30/06/22 to 31/03/24. The total value of the contract is £28,721 (excluding VAT) and is fully funded by the RPC funding from DWP.
- 23 The creation of the RPC Coordinator post will be in a PO4 salary scale and be a fixed term until this current funding expires. If further funding is secured then permission will be sought to extend the position. The position is fully funded by the RPC funding from the DWP.
- 24 Compliance against the grant funding and performance of Triple P and the RPC Coordinator will be overseen by the Service Delivery Manager – Families First.

What are the legal implications?

- 25 This report involves a Significant Operational Decision due to the maximum potential value being over £100k. It is not subject to call in. There are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information Rules.
- 26 The value of the direct award detailed within this report is below the threshold for the application of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 for the procurement of public services contracts and therefore it is not subject to the full procurement rules beyond the duty to act transparently, fairly and non-discriminatorily that applies to all contracts.
- 27 The decision to enter into a contract with Triple P for the purpose highlighted in this report falls under the provision of CPR 8.3:

Where the relevant Chief Officer considers there is genuinely no competition such that only a particular organisation or provider can meet the Council's specific requirements (e.g. when commissioning a unique product or service) a waiver of CPRs 8.1 and 8.2 need not be obtained. However, before making any decision the Authorised Officer must consult with PACS and the lack of competition must be formally evidenced in writing and approved by the relevant Chief Officer as part of a Delegated Decision before the contract is entered into.

- 28 Awarding a contract directly to the named organisation in this way could leave the Council open to a potential claim from other providers, to whom this contract could be of interest, that it has not been wholly transparent. However, the risk of this is considered to be low.
- 29 Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the use of CPR 8.3 and the award of the contract to Triple P, the contents of this report should be noted.
- 30 In making their final decision, the Deputy Director – Social Care should be aware of the risk of challenge to the Council identified above and be satisfied that on balance the course of action chosen represents Best Value for the Council.

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

31 With any direct contract award there must be consideration of the risk of challenge. However, it is considered the benefits of awarding a contract to Triple P outweighs this risk

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

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

32 This proposal supports the 2020-25 Best Council Plan priority to make Leeds a Child Friendly City where children & young people are supported to improve social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing and are supported to be safe and feel safe.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

33 Consideration was given to undertaking a competitive tender for the RPC training; however for the reasons detailed in section 11 this was not considered the best course of action.

How will success be measured?

34 The success of the use of grant funding; including the commission of Triple P, the creation of the RPC Coordinator position and associated outcomes and will be overseen & measured by the Service Delivery Manager – Families First.

What is the timetable for implementation?

35 The contract with Triple P will commence on 30/06/2022 and will expire on 31/03/2024.

36 The new RPC Coordinator post will be recruited to as soon as permission is granted.

Appendices

37 Appendix 1 – Equality, Diversity, Cohesion & Inclusion (EDCI) Screening Form

Background papers

38 N/A