

Permission to award contract to support the reduction in serious youth violence through improved attendance and engagement at school – SAFE Taskforce to St Giles Trust

Date: 11th October 2022

Report of: Commissioning Manager - Children & Families

Report to: Director of Children & Families

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

The DfE has made available grant funding to establish SAFE Taskforces in 10 local authority areas across the country, as part of the cross-government Beating Crime Plan published in July 2021, which announced investment in specialist support in schools in serious violence hotspots to support young people at risk of involvement in violence to re-engage with education. Leeds will receive total grant funding of £3.7 million over three years (2022/23 – 2024/25).

Permission was granted in August 2022 (D55495) to undertake a competitive tender to establish a contract to deliver pro social skills training for schools and young people; a bespoke package of training and support for Educational Inclusion Mentors; and targeted after-school provision.

As a result of the tender activity this report seeks permission to award a contract to St Giles Trust. The contract will commence on 24th November 2022 and will expire on 31st March 2025. The total contract value is £582,120.74.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children & Families is recommended to approve the recommendation to award a contract to St Giles Trust for services to support the reduction in serious youth violence through improved attendance and engagement at school. The contract will commence on 24th November 2022 and will expire on 31st March 2025. The contract value will be £582,120.74.
- b) This decision is a consequence of the key decision taken on 2nd August (D55495) seeking permission to procure and is therefore not a key decision in itself.

What is this report about?

- 1 The DfE made available grant funding to establish SAFE Taskforces in 10 local authority areas across the country, as part of the cross-government Beating Crime Plan published in July 2021, which announced investment in specialist support in schools in serious violence hotspots to support young people at risk of involvement in violence to re-engage with education.
- 2 SAFE Taskforces will bring together mainstream schools to commission evidence-based interventions to **Support** young people with challenging behaviour, enabling them to **Attend** school regularly so they can **Fulfil** their potential and prevent costly poor life outcomes by inspiring them to **Exceed** their expectations.
- 3 The programme is designed to be schools-led because school leaders, teachers and staff have a distinct expertise and access to make a difference in young people's lives. As part of the Taskforce, the DfE are asking schools also to work alongside other local partners who can provide expertise and support. This programme will enable schools to support young people within their school and community, by bringing them together to collectively manage a pot of funding. Each SAFE Taskforce will need to commission and fund evidence-based interventions to support young people at risk of serious violence and re-engage them in education.
- 4 In Leeds, Leeds City Council has agreed to act as a central repository for the grant funds on behalf of schools, with the Taskforce to be established through the existing Area Inclusion Partnership (AIP) arrangements. AIPs bring schools together in a recognised & equitable partnership to deliver & coordinate services to keep children and young people in vulnerable circumstances and at risk of exclusion from education, included in high quality learning.
- 5 The Leeds SAFE Taskforce identified the need to invest some of the DfE grant in a contract to deliver:
 - a) Pro social skills training for schools and young people;
 - b) A bespoke package of training and support for Educational Inclusion Mentors;
 - c) Targeted after-school provision.
- 6 In August 2022 permission was granted (D55495) to undertake a competitive tender exercise to award a contract to deliver the work noted in point 5 above.
- 7 The tender was published via Yortender on 26th August and closed on 26th September. A bidder's event was held on 12th September to provide more information to bidders on the SAFE Taskforce and to answer any questions from interested bidders. Bidders also had the opportunity to raise questions through the Yortender portal.
- 8 As a result of this the tender activity; this report seeks permission to award a contract to St Giles Trust for delivery of this contract. The value of the contract will be £582,120.74. The contract will commence on 24th November 2022 and will expire on 31st March 2025.
- 9 In total two bids were submitted for the tender: both bids passed the standard selection questionnaire which meant both method statements (tenders) were evaluated by the tender panel.

- 10 The tender evaluation panel was made up of representatives from:
- LCC Children & Families Commissioning Team
 - Leeds Safetaskforce/Schools
 - LCC Youth Offer
- 11 The bids were scored on a price/quality separated approach against the published evaluation criteria listed in the tender document, with some elements of the methods statement requiring a minimum quality threshold.
- 12 Only one bid met all minimum quality threshold criteria and therefore, as per the published evaluation criteria in the tender documentation; only the bid that met all minimum quality thresholds was invited to present to the Young People's Panel.
- 13 The young people's panel formed the final part of the evaluation criteria where invited bidders were required to present to a panel young people who scored this element of the bid.
- 14 Social value was included in the tender criteria and the Social Value Portal was utilised.
- 15 The successful bidder was required to meet an overall minimum quality threshold of 70% of all available points of quality: St Giles met this criteria.
- 16 The scoring matrix is attached as a confidential appendix.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 17 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening has been undertaken. This identifies the decision will have a positive impact for equality, diversity, cohesion and integration because it will support young people at risk of involvement in violence to attend school and re-engage with education.
- 18 The taskforces will focus on pupils already known to be involved in serious violence or who are in close proximity to serious violence due to contextual factors such as peer groups, family, or neighbourhood; and pupils who are disengaged from education e.g. truancy, suspension or exclusion from school who are more likely to end up on the pathway into serious violence. This means the cohort is likely to include high proportions of pupils from recognised vulnerable groups (e.g. Children in Need, Looked After Children and those with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)).
- 19 A requirement of the contract is that the provider must monitor & evidence the impact of the contract.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

- Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 20 This proposal supports the council's health & wellbeing pillar and the city & council ambitions of:
- Improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes
 - Improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing
 - Helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 21 The Leeds SAFE Taskforce has been established with all key stakeholders to be represented, including schools. Consultation has taken place and will continue throughout the programme with schools, including AIP Chairs.
- 22 The Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education has been briefed on the SAFE Taskforce programme.

What are the resource implications?

- 23 The contract value is £582,120.74 and is fully funded through the DfE SAFE Taskforce grant. LCC have been awarded £3,377,550, which will be received over three financial years: 22/23; 23/24; and 24/25.
- 24 This is considered essential spend as it is utilising external funding for this specific purpose and would otherwise have to be returned to the Department for Education

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

- 25 The DfE funding must be spent as described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). A project team has been established within Children and Families comprising of representatives from Learning Inclusion, Performance Management and Improvement, Learning Systems and Commissioning. The project team will ensure, and monitor use, of the funding to ensure compliance against the MoU. A risk register is maintained by the project team.
- 26 The timeline for mobilisation is tight as bidders are required to commence delivery straight away with an intense period of delivery required between January-March 2023. This was made aware to bidders in the tender documents and as part of the tender evaluation bidders were required to submit their mobilisation plan.

What are the legal implications?

- 27 This decision is a significant operational decision as a consequence of the key decision taken on 2nd August (D55495) seeking permission to procure this contract and is therefore not a key decision in itself.
- 28 Appendix 2 to this report has been marked as confidential under Access to Information Procedure Rules 10.4 (3) on the basis that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) which, if disclosed to the public, would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of that person or of the Council.
- 29 Undertaking this tender is in line with contract procedure rules (CPR) 9.1 and 9.2.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 30 No other options were considered in relation to awarding this contract.

How will success be measured?

- 31 The DfE funding comes with targets and performance measures. The SAFE Taskforce project team will be responsible for monitoring the programme against targets and performance measures.
- 32 The specification for the tender sets out specific targets and performance measures that link to the overall SAFE Taskforce project targets and performance measures. St Giles will be allocated a Contracts Officer from the Commissioning Team who will ensure regular contract monitoring is undertaken and submitted and ensure compliance against the contract specification. This will be fed through to the SAFE Taskforce project team to enable joint reporting across the whole SAFE Taskforce.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 33 St Giles will be informed of the decision as soon as possible. The Commissioning Team, in collaboration with the SAFE Taskforce team, will work with the provider to manage the mobilisation of the contract.
- 34 The contract will commence on 24th November 2022 with an intense amount of delivery required in January-March 2023.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Inclusion (EDCI) screening form.
- Appendix 2 Scoring matrix – **confidential**.

Background papers

- None