

Authority to procure and award Enhanced Youth Work contracts

Date: 20/09/2021

Report of: Head of Early Help Services

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 to procure contracts totalling £450,000 per annum to deliver Enhanced Youth Work in 12 wards across Leeds with the highest levels of deprivation. Three contracts for up to five years duration will be awarded at a value of £150,000 per annum each, covering three geographical areas of the city (West/North West, South/South East and East/North East). Procurement will be by way of competitive tender advertised through the Yortender portal.
- This decision supports the ambitions of the Best Council Plan and the ambitions of a Child Friendly City, including 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; and helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work.
- This decision is a consequence of the key decision made by the Executive Board in April 2021 to approve the recommendations of the youth work review report.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children and Families is recommended to approve the procurement by way of competitive tender of contracts totalling £450,000 per annum to deliver Enhanced Youth Work in 12 wards across Leeds with the highest levels of deprivation. Three contracts for up to five year's duration (three years with the option to extend by up to a further two years) will be awarded at a value of £150,000 per annum each, covering three geographical areas of the city (West/North West, South/South East and East/North East). This is a high value procurement. Contracts will be awarded to successful bidders and contract managed by the Commissioning and Market Management team.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The funding for these contracts is in scope of a review of targeted youth work, the findings of which were approved by the Executive Board in April 2021. One of the recommendations of the Executive Board report was to procure contracts with external providers to deliver enhanced youth work.
- 2 As detailed in the Executive Board report, the future model of youth work delivery will consist of a core offer of provision that all 11-17 year old young people can access and benefit from. This will be delivered by the LCC Youth Service. In addition, there will be an enhanced youth work offer delivered by external providers that will meet the needs of our most vulnerable groups of young people living in Leeds.
- 3 Leeds continues to be committed to a mixed economy of provision and working in partnership with the third sector to improve outcomes for young people, maximise resources in local communities and address any gaps in provision to ensure equitable access.
- 4 Consultations in June 2021 to inform priorities for commissioning will help shape the service specifications, which are anticipated to have many commonalities but also some details specific to each geographical area due to the particular needs of different communities.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected: Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside, Middleton Park, Temple Newsam Armley, Bramley & Stanningley, Farnley & Wortley, Kirkstall, Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Chapel Allerton, Gipton & Harehills, Killingbeck & Seacroft

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 5 This decision will ensure young people living in the most deprived wards will have access to a good quality, enhanced youth work offer from April 2022 in line with the findings of the youth work review and the recommendations of the Executive Board report. The youth work review highlighted many areas of good practice across the city and demonstrated the difference youth work makes to the lives of young people in Leeds. In Leeds, youth work is delivered as a preventative and early intervention service for young people.
- 6 Providers will be required to commit to delivering social value as part of their bid and identify which social value targets they will deliver using the Social Value Portal. These commitments will be monitored as part of ongoing contract management and will form part of their contract.
- 7 Delivery will be focused in 12 wards with highest indices of deprivation. This is in recognition that young people living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have lower attainment at school, are more likely to be NEET (not in education, employment or training) post 16, and are more likely to be involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 8 An Equality Impact Assessment screening document has been completed and is attached at Appendix 1. The new services will be focused in areas of greatest need and will increase the capacity of community based organisations to engage with a wider number of young people.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 9 There are no particular legal or statutory requirements to undertake consultation as part of this decision. Existing commissioned providers of youth work have been consulted and are aware of our intention to close current contracts and grants and undertake a new competitive procurement process.
- 10 This decision follows on from the review of targeted youth work. Extensive consultation took place with a wide range of key stakeholders as part of this review, including on what services were in scope and the timetable for procurement. Further consultation was undertaken in June 2021 with young people, practitioners and Elected Members to inform the specific needs and priorities for the service specifications.

What are the resource implications?

- 11 Contracts will be awarded for three years, with the option to extend by up to a further two years. The annual value of each contract will be £150k. The total combined value if all extension options are taken up in full is £2,250,000.
- 12 The budget service sits within the Head of Service for Looked After Children budget area.
- 13 The budget for youth work has been approved by Executive Board along with key priorities to deliver the vision for youth work in Leeds. The tender will be evaluated based on a price / quality separated approach. This involves the first stage being a quality assessment which tenderers either pass or fail. Tenderers who pass are then assessed purely on price. Bidders will be required to submit detailed written method statements and deliver a presentation to a panel of young people. The tender responses will form part of the contracts and these will be monitored throughout the life of the contracts to ensure value for money is achieved and essential learning is captured.

What are the legal implications?

- 14 This report contains a significant operational decision and as such is not subject to call in. This decision is a direct consequence of a key decision taken at Executive Board in April 2021.
- 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 It is essential that the process of evaluating bids is fair and transparent to avoid challenge. The method of evaluation will be clearly explained in the tender instructions and strictly adhered to by the evaluation panel. The panel will consist of individuals with relevant knowledge and understanding of youth work and the new model for youth work in Leeds and will include representation from Youth Offer, Communities Team, Youth Justice Team and Commissioning. In addition to the evaluation panel there will be a young person's panel whose scores will contribute to the overall quality score.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

- 17 The new model for youth work delivery will help achieve the priority of inclusive growth by supporting more young people to be active citizens that are able to participate in education, employment or training.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 18 Numerous options for commissioning youth work were considered and consulted on with stakeholders throughout the youth work review. Other options and models for youth work were discounted for various reasons. This option was found to have the most benefits for young people and communities in line with the findings of the review.

b) How will success be measured?

- 19 Contractors will be required to submit quarterly monitoring information to evidence outputs, quality and impact of delivery against the outcomes.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 20 The tender will be published in September 2021 and contracts will be awarded in December 2021 for delivery of services to start on 01/04/2022.

Appendices

- 21 Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment screening document.

Background papers

- 22 None.