

73823 - Leeds Electronic Market Place (EMP) for Supported Accommodation for Young People (aged from 16 and up to 25 years)– for provision of support for Leeds children looked after 16/17years and care experienced young people (from 18 and up to 25 years).

Date: April 2024

Report of: Commissioning Manager

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 Director of Children & Families to approve the award of the Contractors listed in this report to the 73823 - Leeds Electronic Market Place (EMP) for Supported Accommodation for Young People (aged from 16 and up to 25 years).

This Leeds Electronic Market Place (EMP) for Supported Accommodation for Young People (aged from 16 and up to 25 years) will commence as soon as is practicable to do so and run to 30/06/2028.

Supported accommodation provision provides a supportive environment, ensuring the best outcomes for our children looked after and care experienced young people. Service provision is underpinned by mandatory national standards, overseen by Ofsted, with the focus to support older children to develop their independence skills in good provision within the leaving care sector. Contractors participating in this EMP will be required to adhere to these mandatory national standards.

This supported accommodation service will run alongside the OWL (Our Way Leeds) service and all new placements, in the first instance, will continue to be commissioned via the OWL service and this contract arrangement will only be considered where OWL is unable to meet demand.

The EMP includes several lots to support our Children Looked After (CLA) 16/17 years and our Care Experienced young people (aged 18 and up to 25 years) in group living (24/7 support) or supported tenancy (where support can be flexed to meet the needs of children/young people).

Leeds City Council is keen to discourage off-contract placements and encourage supported accommodation providers to participate in this EMP arrangement; the EMP includes an opportunity for providers to tender for this arrangement bi-annually.

To control price, this EMP includes the opportunity for an annual price review which is subject to due diligence of a completed business case and revised fee schedule, which reflects any increasing costs and demonstrates appropriate steps taken to mitigate costs.

Quality and price were evaluated during the commissioning of this EMP. Award onto the EMP required providers to pass evaluation criteria for quality and price. The following providers met the minimum criteria for quality evaluation.

1. 24/7 Support UK Ltd.
2. Bedspace Ltd.
3. Keys PCE Ltd.
4. Northern Community Pathways Ltd.
5. The Sanctuary Project Ltd.
6. Independent Living Project.
7. Barnardos.
8. Smart Add Health.
9. Upendo.
10. Farosvin.

Further discussions are still to take place with the providers below in relation to the price evaluation. Should the conversation be satisfactory, it is recommended that these providers will then be approved to participate in relevant lots on the 73823 - Leeds Electronic Market Place (EMP) for Supported Accommodation for Young People (aged from 16 and up to 25 years).

1. Smart Add Health (Lots 1, 2, 4, 5).
2. Upendo (Lots 1, 2).
3. Farosvin (Lot 4).

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children & Families is recommended to approve the award of the following providers to participate in the 73823 - Leeds Electronic Market Place (EMP) for Supported Accommodation for Young People (aged from 16 and up to 25 years).

Children Looked After (16/17 years) – Lots 1 (Group Living)

- 24/7 Support UK Ltd.
- Bedspace Ltd.
- Keys PCE Ltd.
- Northern Community Pathways Ltd.
- The Sanctuary Project Ltd.
- Independent Living Project.

Children Looked After (16/17 years) – Lots 2 (Supported Tenancy)

- 24/7 Support UK Ltd.
- Bedspace Ltd.
- Keys PCE Ltd.
- Northern Community Pathways Ltd.

Children Looked After (16/17 years) and Care Experienced Young People (Aged 18 and up to 25 years) - Lots 3 and 6

- Barnardos.

Care Experienced Young People (Aged 18 and up to 25 years) – Lots 4 (Group Living)

- Bedspace Ltd.
- Keys PCE Ltd.
- Northern Community Pathways Ltd.
- Independent Living Project.

Care Experienced Young People (Aged 18 and up to 25 years) – Lots 5 (Supported Tenancy)

- Bedspace Ltd.
- Keys PCE Ltd.
- Northern Community Pathways Ltd.

What is this report about?

- 1 To approve the award of the above providers listed in this report to the 73823 - Leeds Electronic Market Place (EMP) for Supported Accommodation for Young People (aged from 16 and up to 25 years).

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 It will support Leeds City Council in its statutory duty to provide quality supported accommodation to meet mandatory national standards for CLA 16/17 years and for Care experienced young people aged 18 and up to 25 years.
- 3 Ensure that Leeds City Council is making placements within a contractual arrangement that best supports and meets objectives for our CLA 16/17 years and for Care experienced young people aged 18 and up to 25 years.
- 4 It will support the mitigation of financial pressure and support Leeds City Council to better forecast future spend in this arena.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 5 This proposal impacts the three pillars of the best city ambition, ensuring that Leeds CLA 16/17 years and care experienced young people (aged 18 and up to 25 years) continues to grow in a supportive and caring setting and have the skills and opportunities which enables them to realise their potential and that are as close to their families, friends, and support networks as possible.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

What are the resource implications?

- 6 The EMP operates within a controlled market, where participating providers have undergone due diligence and evaluation to be approved onto this arrangement, thus reducing officer time when looking to identify supported accommodation for our CLA and care experienced young people.
- 7 It should be noted this is a call-off arrangement and there is no obligation for the local authority to purchase any services from this arrangement but enables the local authority to make placements as required but without the commitment to any expenditure. It will offer service providers no guarantee of placements.
- 8 Robust contract management will ensure quality service delivery, improved outcomes for children and focussed discussions to ensure value for money is being achieved.
- 9 Leeds forecasted spend for 2024/25 for supported accommodation services in Leeds is more than £12m.

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

- 10 To reduce/prevent the future use of off-contract spend for supported accommodation; this contract offers the opportunity for providers to join the EMP bi-annually. Market engagement will take place with off-contract providers to encourage and support them to participate in this EMP.
- 11 To mitigate financial pressure, this EMP includes the opportunity to review price prior to a provider being accepted onto the contract arrangement and an annual price review – due diligence requires a completed business case and benchmarking of revised price schedules to support price review requests.
- 12 The absence of a contractual arrangement will limit opportunities to improve and consolidate best practice and any ongoing anticipated efficiency savings and qualitative benefits would not be realised.

What are the legal implications?

- 13 This decision is classified as a Significant Operational Decision and is a direct consequence of D55042.
- 14 There are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the access to information rules.
- 15 Statutory duty to ensure supported accommodation provision for Leeds children looked after and care experienced young people.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 16 Not applicable

How will success be measured?

- 17 Commissioning and market management will work in partnership with providers towards achieving best outcomes and holding the highest aspirations for children/young people placed to enable them to realise their potential and achieve full independence.
- 18 During the life of this EMP, Leeds City Council will work with providers to ensure required provision is available within the local area and to reduce the number of out of area placements and placements at distance as far as possible.

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

- 19 Commissioning and Market Management Team (Children and Families) and Strategy and Resources will be responsible for the implementation of this EMP.

Appendices

- Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Inclusion (EDCI) screening form.

Background papers

- N/A