



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet Committee held on 29th January 2008

Report Title: **Mental Health Assessment and Treatment Service for Looked after Children**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): *n/a*

Report of: The Director of Children and Young Peoples Service

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non-Key

1. Purpose (That is, the decision required)

1.1 To seek Member approval to award the contract for a mental health assessment and treatment service as allowed under Contract Standing Order 11.03 in accordance with paragraph 12 of this report

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

2.1 The current contract for a mental health assessment and treatment service expires in March 2008. In anticipation of contract expiry, officers have tendered the service, in order to ensure it meets current requirements in line with Council requirements.

2.2 I therefore, concur with the recommendations of this report that following a competitive tendering process, the contract for a Mental Health Assessment & Treatment service is awarded to the Contractor identified in part B.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That Members agree to award the contract for a mental health assessment and treatment service to the Contractor identified in part B for a period of 3 years with an option to extend for a further period of up to 2 years.

Report Authorised by:

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Director

The Children and Young People's Service

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4. Director of Finance Comments

The Chief Finance Officer was consulted in the preparation of this report and comments as follows.

- 4.1 The mental health assessment and treatment service for looked after children is fully funded from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Grant. Haringey's 2007/2008 allocation is £964,000 and £353,500 of this is spent on this service.
- 4.2 The Department of Health have confirmed that a circular will shortly be issued confirming the allocations for the next three years. There will be no cut in the grant for Haringey and there may be some inflationary uplift. However in the future the grant will not be ring fenced and will become an area based grant administered by the Department of Communities and Local Government.
- 4.3 The costs of the first three years of this contract can therefore be contained within existing resources. However the contract should not be extended for a further two years until confirmation of future grant funding streams has been received.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 5.1 The service is not classified as a priority activity service under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 so there is no requirement to advertise the contract in Europe.
- 5.2 Children's Services Directorate (the Directorate) followed a domestic tender process in accordance with CSO 8.03 (a) (open tender process).
- 5.3 The Directorate wishes to award the contract to the provider named in the exempt appendix. The recommendation to award is made on the basis of most economically advantageous tender (CSO 11.01 [b]).
- 5.4 The Cabinet Procurement Committee has power to approve the award under CSO 11.04.
- 5.5 The Head of Legal Services confirms that there are no reasons preventing Members approving the award of contract.

6. Head Of Procurement Comments

- 6.1 The procurement process has been undertaken in line with the Procurement Code of Practise.
- 6.2 The quarterly reporting schedule will minimise any non compliance throughout the life of the contract
- 6.3 The tendering process has one through a fully competitive process and has resulted in service standards to be upgraded to deliver a more effective service for

Haringey residents and therefore represents Value for Money for the Council.

- 6.4 This recommendation reduces the risk to young people in care encountering mental health issues which negatively impacts on their life chances.

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 7.1 No background documents
- 7.2 This report contains exempt and non-exempt information. Exempt information is contained in Part B and is not for publication. The exempt information is under the following category (identified in the amended Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)(3) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority for holding that information)

8. Strategic Implications

- 8.1 Children in care have a significantly higher incidence of mental health issues in comparison with the whole population. It is also clear that poor mental health can have a severe and adverse impact on the outcomes for children in terms of their life chances, health and educational attainment. The award of a bespoke mental health service to children in Haringey care will enable us to make early impact where there are difficulties for children and ensure that the network of professionals working with the child are fully supported.
- 8.2 The risk of not having a contract for this provision is the adverse affect on young people in care who statistically have a higher incidence of mental health issues which negatively impacts on their life chances. Which also means that the Council will not be meeting its obligations in providing the best outcomes for children in care.
- 8.3 The work under taken with children in care by the Tavistock team under the previous contract was generally of excellent quality. The contract specifications have since been amended to include additional benefits that have been contracted in for the new service and should be met through the competitive tendering process. These will include a reduction in the time taken to respond to new referrals and a strengthening of services young people in care aged 16 – 24 in addition to further development of the 'Placement stability rating tool' action research which will enable us to target services at children most vulnerable to care placement breakdown.
- 8.4 The contract as tendered provides good value for money as this is a bespoke contract for vulnerable young people with mental health issues in a highly specialised market. The contract will also enable Haringey children's social care staff to have access to an internationally renowned training programme, to have bespoke training programmes developed by the team and have the additional value of accessing the extensive research programme run by the Contractor in order to ensure we learn from research opportunities and develop evidence-based best practice in borough.

8.5 The contract will be rigorously monitored by quarterly reports which includes details of: new referrals, response times, assessments undertaken and outcomes thereof, interventions required, number of appointments attended or cancelled, level of staffing and training; as well ensuring that policies in relation to privacy, confidentiality, EOP, abuse, child protection etc. meet Council standards.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 The current cost of this service is £353,500 p.a.

9.2 The cost of this provision is met from the Children and Families Budget (fully funded from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Grant) and the budget holder confirms there is sufficient provision within the budget for this.

9.3 See Finance comments at section 4

10. Legal Implications

10.1 See Legal comment at section 5

11. Equalities Implications

11.1 Bids were evaluated by Equality & Diversity Officers to ensure that that organisations' equalities policies and procedures met Council standards

11.2 The contract requires that the service is provided in a manner which recognises and implements equality of opportunity and access, moreover equality issues are discussed in monitoring meetings and are included in quarterly returns, so that services can be targeted appropriately by positive action. The service is aimed at vulnerable young people who may require intervention and a range of support services.

12. Consultation

12.1 The Service Manager has agreed the tender process and the current provider has been advised about the requirement for periodic competitive processes to ensure that services commissioned continue to meet identified customer need and best value for the Council.

13. Background

13.1 The service is currently provided by Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust, and will expire in March 2008.

13.2 The objectives of the service are to provide a range of services for looked after children including inter alia:

- Clinical services for 0 -16 year olds eg support to foster carers, parent and family therapy, psychiatric consultation and assessments, reports and surgeries for on the spot consultation at council offices
- Network liaison service ~ co-ordination and facilitating inter-agency meetings between health, education and mental health
- Services to residential homes ~ clinical consultation with staff , and intervention for young people in various Haringey residential homes
- Leaving care Services for 16-24 year olds ~ short to medium term psychotherapy, case discussion/consultation group for leaving care staff, mental health worker and management

13.3 In order to ensure that service continued to meet current requirements and best value it was decided to employ an open tender process, where all interested organisations could bid for the contract.

13.3 On 22 May an advert was placed in the Guardian requesting expressions of interest, 11 were received by the Children's Contracts and Commissioning team and 3 were returned by tender closing date 8 October 2007

13.4 The bids were evaluated by specialist assessors from Equalities and Diversity, Finance and Health and Safety as well as a professional evaluation team from commissioning and an independent expert from the children's charity 'Young Minds', in compliance with Contract Standing Orders using the following criteria:

- Value for money (25%)
- Ability to deliver which included, set up and establishment of service, previous experience, performance monitoring, clinical delivery and equalities (75%)

Other assessment criteria was on a pass or fail basis

- Quality assurance policy
- Equalities policy
- Staff recruitment and training policy and procedures
- Health and Safety policy

13.5 The maximum score available was 1000 and only organisations that scored 50% or more passed the evaluation: (full names of the organisations are included in part B)

Organisation	Score
A	400
B	250
C	625

13.5 The proposed provider was the only organisation to pass the tender criteria and were invited to interview in order to demonstrate their ability to provide the service focussing on the approach and methodology to be employed.

13.6 The price submitted for this contract is contained in part b of this report.

14. Conclusion

14.1 That Members agree to award the contract for a Mental Health Assessment and Treatment service for looked after children in accordance with CSO 11.01 on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender

14.2 And that the contract is awarded to the organisation named in the exempt appendix for a period of 3 years as allowed under CSO 11.03 with the option to extend for a further period of 2 years.