

**Executive Procurement Committee On 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2006**

**Report Title:** Request for waiver of requirement to tender for Community based Risk and safeguarding Assessment of children and families

**Forward Plan reference number (if applicable):** N/A

**Report of:** The Executive Director of the Children's Service

**Wards(s) affected:** [All] - this service is available to residents of all wards

**Report for:** Non-Key Decision

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To seek Members agreement to waive the requirement to tender under Contract Standing Orders (CSO 7.02).

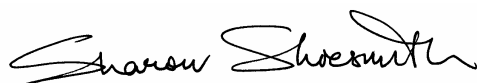
**2. Introduction by Executive Member**

2.1 I endorse the recommendations of this report and ask for members to agree to the waiver of the Contract Standing Order.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 That Members agree the waiver of Contract Standing Order (CSO)6.04 (requirement to tender), as allowed under CSO 7.02, in accordance with waiver requirements noted under CSO 7.03 (a) and (d)

4. **Report Authorised by:** Sharon Shoesmith  
Director of the Children's Service



5. **Contact Officer:** Marion Wheeler  
Service Manager, Children & Families  
**Telephone:** 0208 489 1862

**6. Executive Summary**

6.1 In 1997, Haringey's Voluntary Sector grants service funded the NSPCC, to provide Community based Child protection assessments, therapy and staff consultation

and training for Children and Families social work staff in Haringey. The assessments are primarily for families involved in s31 1989 Children Act proceedings and therapeutic services for children recovering from the effects of abuse

- 6.2 It is a Haringey's initiative to promote the Gershon review, in securing value for money and efficiency, and to work with Small and medium sized enterprises, voluntary charitable agencies to promote local regeneration. Thereby, working in partnership with NSPCC, Haringey will implement this initiative.

## 7. **Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)**

- 7.1 N/A

## 8. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Background papers

- 8.1 Buying a Better London  
8.2 Voluntary Sector grants Committee report 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005  
8.3 The two appendices attached to this report is **not for publication** as it contains exempt information under the following categories:  
viii) The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.

And

(ix) Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

## 9 **Background**

- 9.1 Historically the NSPCC have been providing a service to Haringey Council since the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1997. They are based at Maya Angelou Centre located in Tottenham which is leased to NSPCC by the Council. The following services are provided by the NSPCC to Haringey.
- 9.1.1 Specialist family assessments where children are on the child protection register or subject to court proceedings. Referrals are made by the two District Service Managers.
- 9.1.2 Therapeutic work with children with a particular focus on disabled children who have suffered abuse. In addition they also provide two therapeutic surgeries in two special schools (Moselle and The Vale). A third link with Blanche Neville school is in progress.
- 9.1.3 Training and Consultations to child care professionals.
- 9.2 The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children herein referred to as NSPCC is a registered charity whose constitutional objectives are to: -
- Prevent children suffering from significant harm as a result of ill treatment.

- Help protect children who are at risk from such harm
- Help abused children to overcome the effects of such harm
- Work to protect children from further harm.

## 10. Description

- 10.1 The NSPCC is currently funded by the Council's grant section until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2005 the Voluntary sector grants committee have agreed to transfer these funds to Children and Families Commissioning. The funding is awarded for a period of three years from April 2006 to March 2009.
- 10.2 Since 1997, families known to The Children's Service have benefited from the support provided by the NSPCC, through the comprehensive assessments, therapeutic work and consultations sessions that are undertaken as part of this agreement.

## 11. Reason for Waiver

- 11.1 A market mapping exercise was undertaken whereby local authorities and agencies were contacted to ascertain whether they could provide a similar service and at what cost.
- 11.2 10 Neighbouring boroughs were also contacted to ascertain if and how similar services were provided within their boroughs, 5 authorities responded and the results are set out in Appendix 1.
- 11.3 Three providers were identified through the research and their cost of assessments were compared, see Appendix 2
- 11.4 The current NSPCC contract has provision for 20 Specialist assessments, 6 therapeutic interventions and 10 training /consultations to child care professionals per year for the contracted annual value of £88,750.00.
- 11.5 This is a cost effective service as NSPCC's funds the Maya Angelou project at a total cost £345,000.00 per annum, of which Haringey contributes £88,750.00, a small proportion of the total cost. Haringey Council, therefore benefits from a high quality service at a comparatively low price proving to be best value to the Council.
- 11.6 An average breakdown of the annual contract price and the unit cost to Haringey is as follows
- 20% - £17,800.00 towards 6 -Therapeutic and 10 -Consultations /training sessions  
 80% - £71,200.00 towards 20 – Community Assessments.  
 Therefore the unit cost to Haringey Council is £3,560.00 per assessment. See appendix 2 for comparison with other independent providers.

A recent internal review of the service by the NSPCC which sought the views of both parents and social workers praised the child centred work that was being carried out.

## 12 Contract Management

**12.1** The Providers will be subject to robust monitoring processes to ensure contract compliance. To ensure performance targets are met in accordance with the contract and the service specification, the Providers will be subject to monitoring visits and on-going spot-checks.

### **13 Consultation**

13.1 In July 2005, a service evaluation was convened, where by child care professionals were surveyed and it was validated that NSPCC provide an exceptional and very valuable service.

13.2 Service Managers have expressed confidence in the quality of the work being carried out through the contracts compliance meetings.

### **14 Summary and Conclusions**

14.1 The purpose of this report is to give justification to waiver the requirement to tender.

14.2 It would be a waste of Councils resources to go to tender for these services and in the best interest of the Council to continue contracting with NSPCC. As they have the experience and knowledge of providing a specialised service at a cost effective price as set out in **section 9 & 11** of this report.

14.3 It is proposed to seek members agreement to waive CSO7.02, 7.03 and it is intended to let a three year contract to NSPCC from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2009.

### **15 Recommendations**

15.1 That the Members approve the waiver of CSO 6.04 as allowed under CSO 7.03 (a) and (d).

### **16 Financial Implications**

16.1 Members agreed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2005 to transfer Voluntary Sector grants of £88,750 annually to Children and Families Commissioning.

16.2 There is no financial implication over and above these as the grant awards have been agreed to be 'ring-fenced' for 3 years funding arrangement in line with the financial year 2008/09.

### **17 Comments of the Director of Finance**

17.1 The Director of Finance has been consulted and his comments have been included in the body of the report through the Voluntary Sector Grants Committee Report of the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, Section 9.

### **18 Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

18.1 The services to be provided are categorised as "residual activities" under the

Public Services Contracts Regulations 1993 and therefore do not need to be tendered in Europe.

- 18.2 The Children's Services Directorate is seeking a waiver of Contract Standing Order 6.4 (requirement to tender) in accordance with the provisions of CSO 7.3 (a) i.e that the nature of the market has been investigated and is shown to be such that a departure from CSOs is justified, and (d) i.e that it is in the Council's overall interest.
- 18.3 Because of the value of the contract the waiver must be approved by the Procurement Committee in accordance with CSO 7.2 (a).
- 18.4 The Head of Legal Services confirms that there is no legal reason preventing Members from agreeing the recommendations in this report.

## **19 Comments of the Head of Corporate Procurement**

- 18.1 The Head of Procurement is satisfied at the amount of market research done with other boroughs in the process of options appraisal.
- 18.2 The recommendation to award to NSPCC is supported by the financial and qualitative aspects of the current provision compared to other providers and therefore provides a best value solution.
- 18.3 The Head of Procurement considers that the waiver route exposes the Council to the minimum amount of risk considering other options.
- 18.4 The Head of Procurement considers there to be adequate contract management arrangements in place to ensure compliance with the service aims and objectives.

## **20 Equalities Implications**

- 20.1 The Providers will all operate a robust Equality Policy that complies with all relevant legislation and is reviewed on an annual basis.
- 20.2 The Council will monitor all equality consideration throughout the life of the contract.

## **21 Use of Appendices**

Appendix 1 & 2