

Report to: Lucy Butler, Director of Children Young People and Learning

August 2022

Award of Places on the Framework for Therapeutic Services for Children and Young People

Report by: Stephen Humphries, Children's Contracts and Commissioning Manager

Electoral divisions: All

Summary

Arising from the Council's statutory obligations under The Children Act 1989, the County Council provides therapeutic assessments and therapeutic interventions for children and young people. This includes the provision of therapies from different disciplines for example psychotherapy, occupational therapy and play therapy.

In February 2022, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People approved the commencement of a procurement process for a new Open Framework for Therapeutic Services, (decision [CYP05 \(21/22\)](#) refers).

As part of the decision the Cabinet Member also delegated authority to the Director of Children, Young People and Learning to award places on the Framework, and any subsequent award relating to these contracting arrangements, for the initial period and further extension periods as necessary.

The procurement has been concluded and the Director of Children, Young People and Learning will be asked to award the contracts to providers that meet the criteria and standards required to join the Framework.

Recommendation

- (1) The Director of Children, Young People and Learning is asked to approve the appointment to the Framework for Therapeutic Services, the providers listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report, that have met the criteria and standards required, for an initial period of 5 years starting in August 2022. There is an option to extend the Framework by up to 2 years should the delivery and performance of the Framework be satisfactory.
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Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 There has been an increasing need for Therapeutic Services for children and young people, predominately those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), receiving Social Care support, or in the Council's Care. Thus, there are several support teams across the Council who need to commission Therapeutic Services.
- 1.2 This increased need has been driven by lack of capacity in NHS services and waiting lists for the Council's oversubscribed Child and Adolescent Multi-disciplinary Psychological Service (CHAMPS) leading to the County Council commissioning services to ensure children receive timely therapeutic assessments and interventions.
- 1.3 Currently the need is addressed by using several independent organisations based in or near West Sussex. Each organisation has standards set by accrediting bodies, however they are not regulated and currently there is no over-arching contractual agreement with the Council for these services.
- 1.4 Spend year on year has been increasing and although the last 2 years it has been approximately £500K per year it is anticipated that this will increase as the number of children in the cohorts described in paragraph 1.1 above is increasing. It is therefore necessary to establish a Framework to enable the efficient and compliant sourcing of therapeutic services from qualified suppliers and reducing the need to obtain Standing Order waivers to directly award contracts.
- 1.5 Approval from the Cabinet Member to launch a procurement to set up a Framework was provided in February 2022 (decision [CYP05 \(21/22\)](#) refers). The Framework consists of fifteen categories (listed below) and providers could apply to be awarded a place on the Framework to offer services for either one or multiple categories:
 - Activities for Children
 - Animal Therapies
 - Art Therapies
 - Counselling / Specialist Counselling
 - Dance Movement Therapy
 - Drama Therapy
 - Family Therapies
 - Massage / Yoga / other alternative Therapies
 - Music Therapy
 - Play Therapies
 - Psychotherapy
 - Occupational Therapy and Assessments
 - Sexual Harm Prevention
 - Speech and Language Therapy and Assessments
 - Therapeutic Parenting.
- 1.6 Following the invitation to tender being issued a Bidders' Briefing was held in February 2022 and all Providers were invited to join. The aim of the Bidders' Briefing was primarily to provide support to all providers including small and medium enterprises on how to use the South East Shared Services Tendering Portal and tender pack.
- 1.7 The tender featured technical and compliance elements, with bidder's responses to all elements being assessed on pass/fail basis by subject experts. The technical element of the procurement process required responses to provide

evidence of qualifications and memberships of accrediting or governing bodies to ensure the ability of the bidders to deliver the required services. Providers that successfully passed all elements of the pass/fail criteria, have been successful in gaining a place on the Framework. Financial / commercial information was provided for information only.

2 Proposal details

2.1 It is proposed that the named providers in the table below are awarded places on the Framework for Therapeutic Services in the Categories stated:

| Category | Providers |
|--|---|
| Category 1: Activities for Children | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chichester Forest Schools Community Interest Company |
| Category 2: Animal Therapy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No applicants |
| Category 3: Art Therapy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Clancy, psychotherapy • Your Space Therapies Limited |
| Category 4: Counselling / Specialist Counselling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire You Wellbeing Limited • Victoria Clancy, psychotherapy • Your Space Therapies Limited |
| Category 5: Dance Movement Therapy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your Space Therapies Limited |
| Category 6: Drama Therapy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louisa Tait |
| Category 7: Family Therapies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynsey Waterhouse trading as Changeworks • Family Psychology Mutual Community Interest Company |
| Category 8: Massage / Yoga / other alternative therapies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bernadette Harris trading as Calming Tree Yoga Therapy • Georgina Ring trading as Luna Life Transformation |
| Category 9: Music Therapy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No applicants |
| Category 10: Play Therapies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire You Wellbeing Limited • James Tolerton, therapeutic services • Helen Crosby, play therapy • Victoria Clancy, psychotherapy |

| | |
|---|---|
| Category 11: Psychotherapy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Fletcher trading as Thinking Families • Arina Ellis • Lynsey Waterhouse trading as Changeworks • Rose Maxwell • Victoria Clancy, psychotherapy • Your Space Therapies Limited • Ian Hickey |
| Category 12: Occupational Therapy and Assessments (OT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live and Love It Limited |
| Category 13: Sexual Harm Prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No applicants |
| Category 14: Speech and Language Therapy and Assessments (SALT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slt4me Limited |
| Category 15: Therapeutic Parenting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angeline Wallis, psychotherapist |

- 2.2 Where there have been no applicants for specific categories, we will approach known providers and encourage them to apply to join the Framework. It is an Open Framework so providers can apply to join at any time.
- 2.3 The Framework will commence in August 2022 for an initial period of 5 years with an option to extend by up to 2 years.
- 2.4 The Framework will be continuously open so that new service providers can join at any time throughout the Agreement Term. All providers, whenever they join, will go through the same evaluation process as the initial appointments to the Framework listed at paragraph 2.1 to assess their suitability for admission. New providers awarded places on the Framework after it has commenced in August 2022, will be approved under the Director of Children, Young People and Learning's onward scheme of delegation.
- 2.5 When a service for a child or young person is required, a suitable provider will be selected through the process of running a mini-competition in accordance with the terms of the Framework.
- 2.6 In terms of individual therapeutic packages, this will mean the issue of a referral to all qualified providers in the relevant category, to which providers will respond with a referral response and a quote (with rates not exceeding the rates submitted by the provider in achieving its appointment to the Framework). The

best overall offer, assessed by reference to the Referral Response Criteria (as set out in the Framework), will determine the successful provider.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

3.1 Alternative options were considered as detailed in Decision Report [CYP05 \(21/22\)](#)

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

4.1 Consultation was undertaken as detailed in detailed in Decision Report [CYP05 \(21/22\)](#).

5 Finance

5.1 Revenue consequences

| | Current Year 2022/23 £m | Year 2 2023/24 £m | Year 3 2024/25 £m | Year 4 2025/26 £m |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Revenue budget | £0.5m | £0.5m | £0.5m | £0.5m |
| Change from Proposal | £0 | £0 | £0 | £0 |
| Remaining budget | £0.5m | £0.5m | £0.5m | £0.5m |

5.2 The effect of the proposal:

a. How the cost represents good value

The introduction of the framework and its selection process should encourage competition in the market, as well as increasing the awareness of individual pricing rates of therapists, all of which can only be beneficial. In addition, the framework will provide assurance of the competence of individual providers, to help ensure that the required quality of provision is met, and the desired outcomes are achieved.

b. Future savings/efficiencies being delivered

There are no clearly identifiable savings that are expected to be achieved, however the introduction of the framework should encourage beneficial behaviors in the market, which in time could be reflected in the prices paid.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

| Risk | Mitigating Action (in place or planned) |
|---|---|
| Gaps in Provision: not all categories had successful applicants. | Market stimulation and promotion of framework to attract providers to the categories where there are gaps. |
| Gaps in Provision: not all categories are covered county wide. There are few providers covering the most Northern areas | Stimulate the market in particular locations to source more coverage of therapies in those areas. Work with providers who cover county wide to encourage them to join the framework. |

| Risk | Mitigating Action (in place or planned) |
|---|---|
| <p>of the county and there are some categories i.e. SALT / OT which are only based in one area. The most frequently used therapy types i.e. psychotherapy have good coverage across the county.</p> | |
| <p>Social care colleagues not using the framework and spot purchasing</p> | <p>Clear communication to be provided by the Assistant Director to Team Managers that staff must use the framework</p> <p>Communication in staff newsletters / team meetings</p> <p>Easy access by creating online forms accessed via the County Council's staff intranet</p> |

7 Policy alignment and compliance

7.1 Legal implications –

The Council is a Contracting Authority as defined in the Public Contract Regulations 2015 ("PCR") and as such is governed by those regulations. The value of the Framework is above the relevant EU Thresholds as referred to in the PCR of £615,278 for Social and other specific Services ("Light Touch Services"). As such the Council undertook a competitive procurement process in accordance with the procedures set out in PCR.

The form of contract will be a Framework Agreement using terms and conditions, approved by Commercial Legal Services and compliant with section 10 of the Council's Standing Orders on Procurement and Contracts.

7.2 Equality duty and human rights assessment

The Service enhances equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic i.e., disability, and people who do not share it, by enabling them to access therapeutic services to assist with their support and development.

7.3 Crime and disorder

The Service supports the Council's aim to improve community safety and to prevent crime and disorder. The service will provide opportunities to divert individual children and young people away from behaviour which may have anti-social implications.

7.4 Social Value

Annual contract reviews with providers will require reports detailing any contributions to Social Value by the supplier.

Lucy Butler

Director of Children, Young People and Learning

Contact Officer: Stephen Humphries, Children's Contracts and Commissioning Manager, stephen.humphries@westsussex.gov.uk, 0330 222 7172

Background papers - None