

Director of Children and Family Services	Ref No: OKD26 (18/19)
March 2019	Key Decision: Yes
Award of Contract for an Integrated Child Psychology Service	Part I
Report by Head of Children's Social Care	Electoral Divisions: All

Summary

West Sussex County Council procures (either individually or in partnership with Clinical Commissioning Groups in West Sussex) a range of psychological support services which provide therapeutic interventions to vulnerable children and young people who are engaged with Children's Social Care. These contracts are due to end in September 2019.

In June 2018 the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People took a decision (Decision reference CYP02 (18/19)) that approved the procurement of a new Integrated Child Psychology Service. The aim of the re-designed service is to combine the present suite of psychological support services and have a more integrated delivery model closely aligned to the structures of Children's Social Care. This builds on the approach which has been trialled with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service for Looked After and Adopted Children (CAMHS LAAC). Bringing together the current suite of contracts into one would have an annual value of up to £1.2m for all services and will enable greater flexibility to respond to the changing demands of Children's Social Care operational services. The new contract and service is due to be in place from October 2019.

As part of decision CYP02 (18/19) the Cabinet Member also delegated authority to the Director of Children and Family Services to award the contract to the provider who can best meet the quality and performance standards required and submits the most economically advantageous tender.

The tender process has now concluded with only one submission received. This bid is within the budget available and meets the quality and performance standards required. The Director of Children and Family Services will be asked to proceed with awarding the contract.

West Sussex Plan: Policy Impact and Context

The Integrated Child Psychology Service (ICPS) will contribute to the key strand 'Best Start in Life'. The overall purpose of the Service is to improve the outcomes of children and young people in West Sussex who are open to Children's Social Care, having been identified as being vulnerable or at high risk; and where it is considered that specialist psychological formulation or intervention will be needed. This will include direct work with children and their families, providing training to family and carers and a consultative element to other key professionals working with the child or family. The outcomes of the ICPS work will be to inform care plans, promote placement stability and hence recovery for children who have experienced

developmental trauma.

Financial Impact

The new service can be afforded within the existing £1.2m budget allocation.

Recommendation

The Director of Children and Family Services is recommended to approve the award of the contract for Integrated Child Psychology Services for an initial period of three years from 1 October 2019 to Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT). This tender meets the quality and performance standards required and is within the available budget allocated for this service.

PLAN

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 West Sussex County Council procures a range of psychological support services which provide therapeutic interventions to vulnerable children and young people who are engaged with Children's Social Care. In some instances this is undertaken in partnership with the West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to achieve economies and avoid duplication.
- 1.2 Currently there are a number of separate contracts in place for the provision of these psychological support services; which are as follows:-

Consultation and Access to Treatment Service (CATS)

This is the service for children with potential or actual sexually harmful behaviour which provides consultation to the professional network, risk assessments and direct therapeutic interventions to children.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

The service offers therapeutic support to unaccompanied asylum seeking children, including a mental health presence at the initial health assessment.

Risk Assessment Service (RAS)

The RAS provides services which supports the legal processes around the care system. The service carries out risk assessments on adults (parents) which then assist in making permanency decisions for children.

Child and Family Intervention Service (CFIS)

The Child and Family Intervention Service provide assessments and interventions for families with children on Child in Need plans and Child Protection Plans, including developing parenting skills.

Complex High Risk Adolescent Service (CHRAS)

The Complex High Risk Adolescent Service targets multi-agency support to those young people who are at the highest risk to themselves and others.

- 1.3 The separate contracts for these services are currently all undertaken by SPFT apart from a small amount of spend with another provider on CFIS.

- 1.4 These separate contracts were due to end in March 2019. However, authority to extend the existing contracts until 31st September has been agreed, via a standing orders waiver application, by the Executive Director of Children's, Adults, Families, Health and Education, the Director of Finance, Performance and Procurement and the Director of Law and Assurance. This extension was required because the County Council were unable to obtain access to a suitable building where the new service could be located, thereby delaying publication of the Intention to Tender (ITT) for the combined ICPS. To address this the ITT included the requirement for the new provider to include provision of a building/premises for the service as part of the specification.
- 1.5 The new ICPS will need to be in place by October 2019 to provide continuity of service for vulnerable children.
- 1.6 In order to comply with standing orders on procurements and contracts, a tender process has been successfully undertaken.
- 1.7 Following a market engagement event (detailed in section 3), six providers expressed an interest in bidding but as the tender process progressed it was clear that only two providers were expected to make a submission. However following the deadline for tenders only one bid was received.

2. Proposal Details

- 2.1 The ICPS will provide a high level of therapeutic input into Children's Social Care at key points. These services will be delivered through a single contract, with the new Service Provider operationally managing the work of the service, including responsibility for clinical staff, clinical supervision and clinical governance.
- 2.2 The new Service will complement the existing in-house services and both will work together closely to improve the outcomes for children.
- 2.3 The Director of Children and Family Services is asked to approve the award of contract to SPFT.
- 2.4 The new contract will run for period of 3 years from October 1st 2019, with options to extend for a further 2 years, giving the contract a maximum term of 5 years.

3. FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

Consultation

- 3.1 Consultation was undertaken by way of market testing and engagement with potential service providers (including the current Service Providers) and operational Children's Social Care managers who are the key stakeholders.
- 3.2 The aim of the market engagement was to establish the sourcing approach, by understanding the availability and interest of specialist providers in undertaking this type of integrated service. It was established that there were several potential providers who could deliver this type of service; therefore an open and competitive tender process was undertaken. In the end there was only one bidder – SPFT, the only other seriously interested

bidder made a decision to qualify out, citing their reasons for not making a submission.

- 3.3 The workforce of the current Service Provider are aware of the new service specification and of the tendering process.
- 3.4 Advice from internal colleagues in procurement and finance was taken with regard to proceeding to award of contract due to there only being one tender. The evaluation process identified that this was a robust tender and within the budget allocated so it was acceptable to proceed.

4. Financial (revenue and capital) and Resource Implications

4.1 Revenue consequences of proposal

There is no change to the revenue implications as a result of this proposal. The value of the Services subject of this report is £1.2m which is funded £0.97m by the County Council and £0.23m by the NHS.

4.2 Capital consequences

There are no capital consequences as a result of this proposal.

4.3 The effect of the proposal

The new service will be purchased using the existing budget allocation. Although some efficiencies are expected from a reduction in contract management activities, these efficiencies will not be of a sufficient level to produce cashable savings.

4.4 Future transformation, savings/efficiencies being delivered

Further work will be needed to identify whether any future savings may be realised. Areas for potential savings are:-

- Improved psychological support to children will impact positively on placement stability.
- Reduction in the number of external expert reports needing to be commissioned.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 TUPE and pensions – this is no longer a consideration as the existing provider is to be awarded the new contract.
- 5.2 Other legal implications are listed in sections 8, 9 and 10.

6. Risk Assessment Implications and Mitigations

- 6.1 Workforce: There is a national paucity of qualified staff able to undertake the type of psychological therapies and practices required to provide this service. There will be some changes to existing staff working arrangements, however it is not expected to cause significant staff turnover.

6.2 Time scale: There is a risk that the service will not be in place by October 1st 2019. To mitigate this there will be a monthly mobilisation planning and monitoring meeting held, led by the County Council's lead officer.

6.3 Corporate and service risks and action to mitigate

- Risk to the health and wellbeing of vulnerable young people if the new Service Provider is unable to deliver the Services under one combined contract. Mitigated by regular mobilisation meetings as above.
- Political and reputational risk if the Service Provider fails to deliver the services in accordance with the specification, as this would be seen as a high profile failure to protect vulnerable young people. Mitigated by robust contract monitoring provisions within the Conditions of Contract.

7. Other Options Considered (and Reasons for not proposing)

7.1 The alternative options considered are explained in detail in the Cabinet Member Decision Report (CYP02(18/19))

8. Equality and Human Rights Assessment

8.1 Children who have come into contact with Children's Social Care or become looked after are more likely to have negative life experiences that result in poorer outcomes in terms of health (including emotional health and wellbeing), lower educational attainment, and poor employment prospects and are more likely to be involved with the justice system. Provision of these psychological support services will help to redress any trauma and attachment issues and therefore contribute to the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment or any victimisation towards children who are looked after and advance their equality of opportunity.

8.2 The local authority has a duty (The Children Act 2004, section 11) to ensure that in discharging its functions it makes arrangements to ensure that it takes into account the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These services help to ensure that the children who are looked after in West Sussex have the opportunity to redress any inequality they could have encountered by way of their experiences before coming into care.

8.3 Within the Service Specification there is a requirement for the new Service Provider to take account of equalities issues in all aspects of their service provision particularly in relation to the following protected characteristics:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sexual orientation;
- sex

9. Social Value and Sustainability Assessment

- 9.1 There is strong evidence about the connection between social and emotional capabilities and positive life outcomes, including educational attainment, health, employment status, and behaviour. These services which support some of the most vulnerable young people in West Sussex are vitally important to the outcomes to young people's life chances, now and in the future.

10 Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessment

Not applicable

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Background papers - None