



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Children's & Education (DCS)
DATE:	17 August 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Children, Young People and Education

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

SUBJECT: Procurement process for the accommodation based service for vulnerable families

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To note that the provision of the accommodation based service for vulnerable families will be retendered due to the current contract coming to an end. The service provides accommodation and support to prevent vulnerable young parents and their families from experiencing homelessness, to promote independence and to positively move parents into independent accommodation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

- Approves the proposed strategy for the procurement and the commencement of a tendering and procurement activity to offer this service to the wider market. The contract will commence on the 1st of November 2022 and will be awarded for 3 years with an option to extend for a further two years on a 1 + 1 year basis. The extension will be subject to satisfactory delivery which will be monitored via robust contract review processes.
- Delegate's authority to the Strategic Director Children's and Education in consultation with the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education to award the final contract following the procurement process.

3. BACKGROUND

The Local Authority funds a range of Supported People and housing related support services aimed at enabling people who need help to develop independent living skills or maintain independence in the community, either in accommodation services or in a person's own home regardless of tenure.

The parents served by this provision have often been at risk or experiencing multiple vulnerabilities for example endured family breakdown, domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, financial difficulties, and physical or mental ill health.

In addition to providing accommodation, the service will also work alongside parents to help them understand the developmental needs of their child and offer parenting support and support families to better manage their and their children's' emotional health and wellbeing and physical health.

The service will provide accommodation for a maximum of 12 months, however it is noted accommodation length may be extended for young parents who are 16 will be unable to obtain a tenancy until they are 18. During this time the provider will:

- Stabilise the crisis situation.
- Work with the service user, housing needs, children's services and other agencies to secure an exit from the service.
- Develop the service users' capacity to live and parent independently in the community and have the skills to maintain a tenancy.

The current contract has been in place since the 1st April 2017 and is with Caritas Dioceses of Salford. The organisation provides five units of single parent with their child/ren accommodation and one unit for a larger family based service.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The service will be located within the geographical area of Blackburn with Darwen with the service provider being responsible for the maintenance costs of any buildings occupied for delivering services, which includes fittings, equipment, repairs and alterations. The provider will be responsible for any costs associated with the replacement of furniture, maintenance and calibration of equipment and the safe disposal of the same, and provide consumables required for the smooth operation of the building.

The tender documentation, contract and service specification will incorporate details to ensure that the successful provider will adhere to quality standards and legal requirements to promote timely decisions regarding the appropriate placement of young children who are subject to care proceedings.

The procurement process will be an Open Tender process will be carried out via The Chest with the procurement opportunity being available to all suppliers. Due diligence checks will be carried out to ensure all providers meet the minimum accreditation and ethical requirements.

The tender will be evaluated with quality questions which will provide 80% of the total evaluation criteria with word limits stated within each question. Twenty percent of the score will be allocated to the financial submission. The evaluation panel will be made up of representatives from the children's commissioning team, contracting and procurement and the housing need team.

The service will be advertised as a full tender to comply with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

TUPE transfer implications will be considered as part of the process.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Each child who has been referred into local authority children's social care should have an individual assessment to identify their needs and to understand the impact of any parental behaviour on them as an individual. Local authorities have to give due regard to a child's age and understanding when determining what (if any) services to provide under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, and before making decisions about action to be taken to protect individual children under Section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

The need to assess can also include pre-birth situations when a mother's own circumstances would give cause for concern that the pre-birth, and then born, child would come within the definition of being a 'child in need'.

The EIA checklist has been completed.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The allocation of funding in relation to this tender and future contract arrangements has been kept in line with the projected Children's Social Care budget.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will pay the successful provider up to £140,000 per year, on a block contract.

Total cost for contract	1 st November 2022 to 31 st October 2023	1 st November 2023 to 31 st October 2024	1 st November 2024 to 31 st October 2025	1 st November 2025 to 31 st October 2026	1 st November 2026 to 31 st October 2026
£700,000	Up to £140,000	Up to £140,000	Up to £140,000	Up to £140,000	Up to £140,000

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

If the provider takes out a lease that is longer than the initial 3 year duration of the contract with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, then this would be the providers' own financial liability.

An open tender process will be followed to ensure this tender attracts providers with sufficient knowledge and expertise to enable quality delivery. The tendering process will need to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations and the Council's Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules. Contracts will be in a form approved by legal officers in the contracts and procurement team.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The management and implementation of the tender will be actioned within Blackburn with Darwen team resources including input from Legal, Finance, Strategic Commissioning and Children's Social Care

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 X Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

Consultation with Blackburn with Darwen Children's Services and the current provider (Caritas Care)

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
-----------------	----------

CONTACT OFFICER:	Cathy Fisk 01
-------------------------	----------------------

DATE:	8 th July 2022
--------------	---------------------------

BACKGROUND PAPER:	
--------------------------	--