

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION



BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER	Strategic Director of Children & Education (DCS)
DECISION TAKEN BY:	(DCS)
DELEGATED BY:	Council (12th January 2023)
IN CONSULTATION WITH:	Executive Member
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Children's Services

SUBJECT: Awarding of the HAF commission to a suitable VCSF organisation

1. DECISION

The delegated officer Joanne Siddle, in accordance with the Blackburn with Darwen Constitution Section 16, under powers delegated to her to note: That following a successful tender process the decision has been to award to **Spring North** to deliver on behalf of the council the Holiday and Food Activity (HAF).

From: 1st May 2023- 30th April 2024 (with the possible option to extend for 1st May 2024 - 30th April 2025).

2. REASON FOR DECISION

The tender activity commenced October 2022 and led to the tender being published on 6th February 2023. The tender was advertised widely to the market through the Find a Tender Service, Contracts Finder and the CHEST portal.

Invitation to Tender Stage Two organisations submitted a full Invitation to Tender. The organisations were required to achieve a 'pass' in relation to the 'Budgetary / Pricing Framework'

A full evaluation was undertaken for both organisations based on the criteria set out in the service specification and invitation to tender documents.

The tenders were assessed by a panel and scored. Detailed written feedback will be given to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers.

3. BACKGROUND

The current provider is Spring North and they have project managed this work since 2021. Last year Spring North continued to manage the project under a waiver. This was due to timelines and late notification of further funding.

Aims and objectives of the Holiday Activity and Food programme

The aim of the programme is to make free places available to children eligible for free school meals for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week and for six weeks in school holidays during 2023/2024.

This covers 1 week at Easter, four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision during Christmas. (The same for 2024/2025, this will be subject to DfE agreement and satisfactory performance).

The overarching aims of the programme are to enable children and young people:

- a) To eat more healthily over the school holidays.
- b) To be more active during the school holidays.
- c) To take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and well-being along with their wider education attainment.
- d) To be safe and not to be socially isolated.
- e) To have greater knowledge of health nutrition.
- f) To be more engaged with school and other local services.

We also want to ensure that the families who participate in this programme:

- Develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting
- Are signposted towards other information and support, for example, health, employment and education.

Expected Outcomes

- To deliver an exciting programme of holiday activities for children and young people
- To ensure that children and families receive a nutritious food offer during the identified holiday periods
- Children and families develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting as well as being sign posted towards other information and support e.g. health, employment and education.

Evidence Base

Evidence suggests that free holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children and young people. It also shows they work best when they provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities, when they offer more than just breakfast or lunch, and when they involve children (and parents) in food preparation.

In November 2020 the Department for Education announced a grant to Local Authorities to provide free places at holiday clubs for children who are entitled to free school meals. These clubs will

provide physical activity, a hot meal and enrichment activities alongside education and support opportunities for parents and carers.

4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

Service Description

Spring North will continue to project manage and coordinate the delivery of Blackburn with Darwen's 2023-2024 of the Holiday activity and Food (HAF) programme in the first instance.

Subject to funding and satisfactory performance will also deliver 2024-2025 programme. The provider will also continue to work closely with the Council's Children's and Education Directorate to co-ordinate and manage a high quality, equitable and accessible offer across the borough.

Accessibility, fairness and equity of provision

The HAF programme will comply with the Equality Act 2010 and will be non-stigmatising and non-discriminatory, providing fair and equitable access for all.

It will also work in a way that it does not discriminate against individuals on the grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, sexual practices, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy or maternity, marriage/civil partnership or belief system and will ensure that all applicable legislation is adhered to.

Essential links to other services / care pathways

The provider will work to ensure that it develops close links with local partners to ensure those most in need are targeted and supported. These partners include but are not limited to:

- Family hubs and Children's Centres
- Schools
- Young People's Services
- 0-19 Healthy Child Programme
- Social Workers
- Children in Our Care team
- Strategic Youth Alliance
- Public Health
- Parents in Partnership for SEND

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Holiday and Food Activity Fund Spend for 2023/2024 allocation is £737,760.

£50k of this has now been awarded to Spring North to project manage and coordinate the delivery of Blackburn with Darwen's 2023-2024 Holiday activity and Food (HAF) programme. Subject to funding and satisfactory performance they will also deliver the 2024-2025 programme. The remainder of the funding (£687,760) will be distributed to identify delivery partners in order to provide the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme as per DfE guidelines.

The provider will work closely with the Council's Children's and Education Directorate to co-ordinate and manage a high quality, equitable and accessible offer across the borough.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Tender has been in accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement Procedure Rules.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications.

8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Spring North submitted the best tender, their submission very clearly had the voice of children and young people at the heart of it and was also the most economically advantageous tender.

10. CONSULTATIONS

N/A

11. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Maria Nugent
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DATE:	09/03/2023
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	
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