
Meeting: Executive
Date: 31 May 2011
Subject: Commissioning of Youth and Youth Support Services
Report of: Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: The report outlines the commissioning process for the delivery of Youth and Youth Support Services and recommends in the exempt Part B report of this Executive agenda the awarding of contracts to the successful applicants.

Advising Officer: Edwina Grant, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Learning & Strategic Commissioning

Public/Exempt: Public with Exempt Part B set out in Appendix B

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Executive

Key Decision Yes

**Reason for urgency/
exemption from call-in
(if appropriate)** N/A

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The proposal relates to the Council's Key Priority:

Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people. The proposal also relates to the provision of effective and efficient local services and is linked to programmes for early intervention and prevention and the Council's poverty strategy.

Financial:

As a result of £1.89M savings agreed by the Full Council on 24 February 2011, the Council withdrew from funding the Youth Service through core council budgets. The Connexions Service was withdrawn as a result of efficiency savings having previously been funded through the Area Based Grant. This has resulted in Children's Services identifying different funding streams and delivery models to provide Youth and Youth Support Services.

The commission for Youth and Youth Support Services is funded through the Early Intervention Grant and does not impact on core council funding. £512,000 per year for the next two financial years has been allocated from the Early Intervention Grant to commission Youth and Youth Support Services.

To fulfil equal opportunities in employment there will be pressure on this budget in the first quarter of the year as staff will not be issued consequent redundancy notices until the recruitment processes to provide staff for this commission are complete.

Legal:

There is a legal framework of entitlement for a service of information to young people, and the offer of opportunities for young people (Youth Offer) is enshrined in the Education Act 1996 as amended by the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The delivery model and level of provision is a matter for Council discretion. This could be a signposting service to voluntary groups as well as/or instead of in-house provision. Legislation requires that the Local Authority must consult with young people about the activities and the provision of information and must publish information about activities.

Risk Management:

The Council will need to ensure that there is smooth transition from in-house delivery to a fully commissioned model. A core element of the youth service work has been retained until early June to ensure that Youth and Youth Support Services continue to function.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

Disaggregation of staff has been the subject of full consultation including with trade Unions and has been undertaken in accordance with Central Bedfordshire Council procedures and best practice.

Equalities/Human Rights:

An equality impact assessment was completed as a part of the efficiency savings decisions relating to the Connexions and Youth Services. The commissioned services will target vulnerable young people.

Community Safety:

The commissioning of youth and youth support services will positively impact on, and support the reduction of, anti social behaviour.

Sustainability:

As part of the service specification, providers have to identify how they will secure additional funding to supplement the Early Intervention Grant and identify what service could be available when the Early Intervention Grant is no longer allocated.

Summary of Overview and Scrutiny Comments:

- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received reports on the proposed Remodelling of Youth and Youth Support services on the 23 and 30 November 2010. The Committee recommended to the Executive that whilst reluctantly acknowledging the need to support the remodelling of services to young people, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee urged the Executive to adopt a two phase approach to the proposal, as originally outlined in early budget consultation documents. However, the Council agreed the full budget saving for 2011/12 as outlined in later budget documents.

RECOMMENDATION:

that the Executive agrees the award of contract(s) for Youth and Youth Support services as set out in the exempt Part B of this report.

<i>Reason for Recommendation:</i>	To enable the implementation of high quality and targeted youth and youth support services to be delivered in line with the Council's decision to remodel Youth Services.
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Executive Summary

The report sets out the proposed arrangements for the provision of youth and youth support services and provides information on the service specification and tender process. The Executive is asked to agree the award of the contracts as set out in the exempt Part B of this report. The contracts will run until 31 March 2013.

Background

1. As a result of £1.89M savings agreed by the Full Council on 24 February 2011, alternative funding streams and delivery models have been identified to provide Youth and Youth Support Services until 31 March 2013.
2. Following meetings with elected members, partners and potential providers on 2 March 2011, and a further meeting with partners and potential providers on the 9 March, the Youth and Youth Support Services Specification was finalised. On 13 March 2011, expressions of interest were invited to provide Youth and Youth Support Services across Central Bedfordshire. 60 organisations attended the two partnership events.
3. Seven separate service specifications were established and many of the providers registered interest in tendering for the total package.
4. The timescale for this work has been developed to ensure that a Youth Support Service presence continues and that there is no break in services to young people, particularly through the summer months when young people are not in school.

5. Applications for tender closed on the 3 May 2011. Following a rigorous selection process it is recommended that contracts are awarded as set out in the exempt Part B report.

Conclusion and Next Steps

6. The organisation(s) recommended to provide Youth and Youth Support Services across Central Bedfordshire have undergone a competitive and rigorous tendering process in line with the Council Procurement Policy. Following the agreement of the Executive, contracts will be awarded to ensure a prompt and effective start to the delivery of provision.
7. Quality assurance measures and performance management arrangements will be put in place to ensure the effective delivery of provision.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Specification for Youth and Youth Support Services

Appendix B (EXEMPT) – Approval for Contract Award

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

None...