

## **Report of the Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 26 July 2017**

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#### **Subject:**

**Block contract call-off from the White Rose 16-25 years Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support Framework, provided in accommodation situated within the Bradford & District boundary**

#### **Summary statement:**

To secure two block contracts called off from the White Rose 16+ Framework Agreement in order to give Bradford Council more control over the provision of accommodation and support to young people 16+ and those leaving the care system. It is intended that the contracts will be commissioned at a lower weekly cost than the current weekly average framework spot price.

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**Overview & Scrutiny Area:**  
**Children's Services**

## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Department of Children's Services Leaving Care Service is seeking to block purchase 2 lots of 12 beds from the White Rose 16-25 years, Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support Framework.
- 1.2 This will be provision in a group living environment in accommodation with a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 beds per property, located within the Bradford District boundary. The make-up of the 12 places in each contract will depend on the proposals put forward by bidding organisations.
- 1.3 The provision will be in a group living environment in accommodation located within the Bradford District boundary. The call off will be for an initial period of two years commencing 01 November 2017 until 31 October 2019, with an option for the Purchaser to extend for up to three further periods of one year. (a maximum total of 5 years).
- 1.4 The Council will only consider bids which are at least 10% below the Bidder(s) Framework Agreement registered weekly bed price, plus at least a further 10% reduction for the weekly void (unoccupied bed) price, should these occur.
- 1.5 The block purchase should prove more cost effective for the Council than spot purchasing off the existing White Rose Framework. It is anticipated that a saving of approximately £200,000 could be made over the contract period given an average 85% occupancy rate.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

The Council currently has in place block contracts for leaving care accommodation that will end on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017. The Council is seeking to put in place new contracts that will ensure we have continuity of provision for this type of placement via this Call-Off Contract. The current contracts have strengthened our relationship with existing White Rose Framework Providers who have appropriate accommodation within the Bradford District Boundary, the new contracts will ensure continuity of this approach in the purchase of leaving care placements.

The contracts will be for supported housing to assist in meeting our statutory obligations to children who are in and leaving care and to ensure they are protected and enabled to lead fulfilling lives through the provision of high quality services.

The service must offer a group living communal environment with staff on site 24 hours a day, seven days a week to deliver programmes of support, dependant on the individual needs, to enable Young Persons to progress towards living in their own accommodation.

Greater consistency of placements has enabled the service to develop a stronger relationship with the Provider/s, enabling them to placement plan more effectively and therefore offer a lower weekly bed price.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The majority of placements will be made for young people who are 16 and 17 years old, however in some cases the Purchaser may wish to accommodate young people post 18 years old and vulnerable young people between the ages of 18 and 25. The Service Provider will work in partnership with the Council's Allocated Worker and will work with and contribute to the Pathway / Personal Education Plan (or equivalent) / Youth Justice Service Plan / other applicable plan.
- 3.2 The Accommodation must provide a single room for each Young Person placed, with individual or communal, dining, kitchen and living space.
- 3.3 Where consideration is being given to placing a YP from an Authority other than this Council, in the accommodation being used for this Block Call-off, the Council must be consulted prior to the placement being confirmed.
- 3.4 At commencement of the contract all existing placements with the Provider may be transferred into the block arrangements at the discretion of the Council.
- 3.5 The contract will include provision for the Council to terminate this contract at any time if, in its reasonable opinion, the contract requirements are not being fulfilled.
- 3.6 The contract will also include provision for the Council to terminate the contracts by giving three month's written notice.

### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 Under Contracts Standing Orders 4.7 before inviting tenders or quotations, the Authorised Officer must:
  - 4.7.1 for contracts with a total estimated contract value in excess of £2m, report details to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee using the agreed pre-contract reporting process determined by the Assistant Director of Commissioning & Procurement. For clarity, details of call-off contracts from a framework do not need to be separately reported providing the original framework has been reported except where the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee request a separate report.*
- 4.2 There was an average of 41 Young People in Group Living - site based Supported Accommodation during 2016/17
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the cost of this call off contract (based on a 10% reduction on the average current spot prices for accommodation within Bradford District) would be approximately £500,000 per year. This means the estimated value for the initial 2 year contract period will be £1,000,000 with an addition £500,000 for each year extended. This gives a maximum total contract value of £2,500,000.

- 4.4 Any saving made through this procurement exercise will firstly address the current budget overspend and secondly contribute to the service budget savings requirement for 2017-18.
- 4.5 Refusals by the provider/s to take referrals must be detailed in writing and agreed by both parties. Any refusals not agreed by both parties will mean forfeiture of the weekly block and void bed cost until the placement is filled. This will minimise any potential void bed costs.
- 4.6 The block contract will be designed to allow Bradford Council to sell surplus provision to other Local Authorities, thereby mitigating the void bed costs.

## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

- 5.1 Potential bidders with existing homes may have young people residing in them from other Local Authorities. To facilitate the block arrangement there may be need for a planned and co-ordinated relocation of Children and Young People over a period of time thereby minimising any disruption to their placement.
- 5.2 Risk associated with poor performance of the Provider is mitigated by point 3.5 in Other Considerations giving the Council the ability to terminate the block arrangement.
- 5.3 Risk associated with falling demand is mitigated by point 3.6 allowing the Council to terminate this block call off contract at its sole discretion by giving three month's written notice.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 6.1 This procurement exercise is for the purchase of provision from White Rose 16-25 years, Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support Framework, which is held by Leeds City Council on behalf of local authorities across Yorkshire and Humber.
- 6.2 The framework includes provision for the purchase of blocks of placements through mini-competition, this is the process that will be followed.
- 6.3 The Framework was advertised on the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contract Regulations.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

Purchase of block contract/s ensures more consistent availability of provision within the locality, enabling Bradford children to remain within the district and prevent placements potentially being at distance. This improves the outcomes for these young people as they will access services and maintain links locally.

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The continued purchase through block contracts will provide savings for the duration of the contract as opposed to spot purchasing from the White Rose

Framework

### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

Local placements will reduce travel time and costs, for both the young people placed and the supporting professionals which will also have a positive impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

Existing providers on the White Rose Framework should have undertaken a locality risk assessment.

### **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

### **9. OPTIONS**

None.

### **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**10.1 That it be noted that the new block call off contracts from the White Rose 16-25 years Leaving Care and Vulnerable Young People Accommodation and Support Framework, will be set up which will ensure Bradford Council can:-**

**10.1.1 Block purchase beds at a reduced rate.**

**10.1.2 Guarantee 24 beds in the Bradford District to help to ensure that Bradford's young people can be accommodated and remain living locally.**

**10.2 Bradford Council to make the required financial commitment during the lifetime of the contract.**

### **11. APPENDICES**

None.

### **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None.