



Key Officer Decision

Report to Strategic Director Children and Young People

AUTHORITY TO AWARD A BLOCK CONTRACT FOR SEMI- INDEPENDENT ACCOMMODATION FOR LAC 16+ AND CARE LEAVERS 18+

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Part Exempt - Appendix Two is exempt from publication as it contains the following category of exempt information as specified in Paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely: <i>“Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)”</i>
No. of Appendices:	2
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report requests authority to award contracts as delegated under the Cabinet Report dated 15 January 2018. It summarises the tender process undertaken in respect of this contract and, following completion of the evaluation of the tenders, recommends who the contract should be awarded to.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1** That the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Young People award a block contract to Centrepont Soho for Semi-Independent Accommodation for LAC 16+ and Care Leavers 18+ to commence on 7th July 2018 for a term of 3 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years.

3.0 Detail

Background

- 3.1** On the 15th January 2018, Cabinet approved the tender of a block contract for the Semi-Independent Living for Looked after Children aged 16+ and Care Leavers aged 18+. Cabinet also delegated authority to the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Young People to award the contract.
- 3.2** In accordance with the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and the Children Leaving Care Act 2000, local authorities have a duty to assess and meet the needs of young people aged 16+ and 18+ who are in care or care leavers. Wherever the young person lives, the duty will rest with the local authorities to keep in touch with care leavers until they are at least 21 (in some instances this is extended to age 25). The local authority has a statutory duty to ensure that every Looked After Child and Care Leaver is properly prepared in making the transition to adulthood in a planned and effective way to achieve the best possible outcomes for the individual young person.
- 3.3** The duties that local authorities have towards their care leavers are set out in the statutory guidance called Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers and can include the provision of accommodation. The provision of semi-independent living is seen as an effective method of assisting a smooth transition to adulthood for 16+ Looked After Children ("LAC") and Care Leavers.
- 3.4** This service is initially for 20 units for semi-independent accommodation – the same number of units as provided under the existing contract. After 1st December 2018 the block accommodation units will increase from 20 units to 60 units to meet the demands of the service and ensure there is enough available accommodation to support the young people of the Borough. The onus will be on the new provider to phase in the increase in accommodation, in consultation with the Authority. The Authority will only pay for properties at the point that they became available for use.
- 3.5** The 60 units will predominantly support Young People with low to

medium needs. The outcomes for this service are outlined below;

- Increasing placement stability for young people;
- Increasing young people's life skills to enable successful move on to their own council tenancy or other long-term housing solution;
- Reducing the proportion of 16-18 year olds, who are not in education, employment or training (NEET);
- Increasing the percentage of young people participating in learning;
- Emotional, wellbeing score (SDQ) used quarterly – with an expectation of responses that are average or higher on the scoring matrix, indicating a positive trend;
- Increasing the percentage of young people participating in learning, activity and sport;
- Enabling the Council to build a strong supplier relationship with focus on meeting the needs of individual young people;
- Providing the Council with tighter influence over the quality of the provision to drive consistency of placement quality.

The tender process

3.6 On the 15th January 2018, Cabinet approved in summary the following:

- The invitation of tenders under the West London Alliance Semi-Independent List for a contract for the delivery of Semi-Independent Living Services for Looked After Children aged 16+ and Care Leavers aged 18+.
- Authority to award the contract for Semi-Independent Living Services for Looked After Children 16+ and Care Leavers 18+ be delegated to the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Young People following the evaluation of tenders in accordance with agreed evaluation criteria.

3.7 The tendering instructions provided that the contract would be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous offer to the Council and that, in evaluating tenders, the Council would have regard to the following:

- **Price - 55%:** assessed on the total block cost per week.
- **Quality Criteria - 35%:** assessed on 6 method statement questions, including a written action plan.
- **Social Value - 10%:** assessed in two parts. Part 1 was a method statement scored out of 5. Part 2 was Best (highest) monetary offer of social value commitments. A final Social Value score calculated

by multiplying the Social Value commitments score by the Method Statement Score. Detail of proposed the social value measures can be found in Appendix 2.

Please see Appendix 1 for a full score breakdown.

Evaluation process

- 3.8** The tender evaluation was carried out by a panel of officers from the Children and Young People Directorate, two service users and an Officer from the Procurement Section.
- 3.9** 9 Providers registered an interest for the block contract and one valid tender was received.
- 3.10** The panel met on 7th March 2018 and the submission was marked by the whole panel against the award criteria.
- 3.11** The scores received by the tenderer (Centrepont Soho) are included in Appendix One. It will be noted that Centrepont Soho scored well in relation to the Quality and Social Value criteria. Also, from information available to Officers, the bid received offers a competitive price per unit as further detailed in the Financial Implications. Officers therefore recommend the award of the contract to Centrepont Soho.
- 3.12** The contract will commence on the 7 July 2018, for an initial period of three years with the option to extend for a further two years.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1** The annual value of the proposed contract is £1,513,520 p.a. (based on £29,028.16 per week x 52.14).
- 4.2** The 2017-18 budget for semi-independent care placements is £3.659m and Brent is forecast to spend £3.700m in 2017-18
- 4.3** The current average unit cost of semi-independent placements is £582 per week. Brent has a full time equivalent of 125 young people in these placements.
- 4.4** The average unit cost of the proposed 60 placements is £484 per week.
- 4.5** If the full 60 units in the block contract were fully occupied, the forecast annual cost of semi-independent care would be £3.478m – a reduction of £222k against the current forecast spend.
- 4.6** The risk associated with the contract is ensuring 60 places are utilized

and 4.0units are not left empty (voids). These projected savings against the current cost of provision assume that voids are managed effectively by the Council.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1** The value of this contract is above the EU threshold for services falling under Schedule 3 - Social and Other Specific Services, which is currently set at £615,278. The award of this contract will therefore fall within the remit of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (the "EU Regulations").
- 5.2** The award is subject to the Council's Standing Orders in respect of a High Value contracts and also the Council's Financial Regulations, in which Cabinet approval to award is required as set out in Standing Order 87. On the 15th January 2018, Cabinet delegated authority to the Strategic Director, Children and Young People, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children and Young People, to award this contract.
- 5.3** The services for this contract have been procured under the West London Alliance Semi-Independent List ("List"), by inviting providers to take part in a mini-competition process for services falling under Schedule 3 of the EU Regulations. The List is open to Local Authorities to call off services.
- 5.4** As the services were procured under the List, there is no requirement for a 10 day Standstill Period. However, officers are required to observe the Council's Call-In Period prior to award.
- 5.5** As the incumbent provider has been recommended for the award of this contract, there are no implications arising out of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

6.0 Procurement Implications

- 6.1** It is the opinion of Procurement that the selected provider has demonstrated through their tender submission (s) the ability to deliver the services tendered. Procurement is also assured that the process of selection was open, fair and transparent, therefore fully supports the recommendations made in this report.
- 6.2** The following Risks / Issues are to be managed by the Children and Young People Service Area:
 - 6.2.1 Mobilisation** - Commissioners will need to work closely with the new provider to ensure a seamless transition and mobilisation, and ensure that the contractor manages this in-line with their

submission.

6.2.2 Management of Voids - In order to achieve the associated savings allocated to this contract, the Children and Young People Commissioning and Resources Team will:

- Establish a cohesive monitoring approach through weekly meetings between commissioners, Duty Team and Looked After Children and Permanency Service to review and track planned moves, terminations etc;
- Ensure that relevant services (Localities, Looked After Children and Permanency and Emergency Duty Team) understand the provision and services, so that this provision becomes the provider of choice
- Manage placement changes with tight turn-round times from when a referral is made to a young person moving to the new provision.
- Ensure that there is a targeted approach for the young people whose placement at the provision is longer than 6 months to enable them to move to their own tenancy unless they have no recourse to public funds;
- Establish 6 weekly meetings between the provider and the lead commissioner and Looked After Children and Permanency Service to track the preparation of young people for independence.

7.0 Equality Implications

7.1 An Equalities Analysis screening exercise was undertaken prior to tender and there were no negative implications for any protected groups identified. None are likely to arise as a result of the decisions in this report.

8.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

8.1 Given the general nature of the contract no specific consultation has been undertaken with Ward Members.

8.2 An update was presented at the Corporate Parenting Committee on 7th February as part of Care In Action update on feedback from recent activity.

8.3 The service specification was co-produced in partnership with service users, partner organisations and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that it is structured to meet identified needs.

8.4 Young people co-produced The Young Person's Your Voice Survey which asked Looked After Children and Care Leavers for their views on their accommodation, the providers, what could be improved and support

offered that was helping young people make a positive change to their life. It was delivered to 128 young people, and shared in face to face visits by Personal Advisors and Social Workers. 100% of Personal Advisors and Social Workers rated the current block contract of semi-independent provision as delivering a very good service. Similarly young people rated the current provider, Centrepoint, as the top ranking provider. Young People also took part in the tender evaluation process and their feedback was taken into account.

8.4 Officers visited the London Boroughs of Ealing and Hammersmith and Fulham to look at their models for semi-independent accommodation.

9.0 Staffing issues including Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE)

9.1 The Services are currently provided by external service providers and there are no TUPE implications for Council staff. Also, as the preferred service provider is the current incumbent service provider, there are no TUPE implications.

10.0 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

10.1 The Council considered the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 in respect of the services and how it may improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Brent prior to and during the procurement process. The services procured have as their primary aim the improvement of the social wellbeing of the vulnerable groups in Brent.

10.2 Bidders were asked to submit bids that proposed social value measures, such as opportunities for local sub-contractors and local people to gain experience and employment in the construction industry. These proposals were evaluated using the social value criteria summarised in 3.7.

Report sign off:

BRIAN GRADY

Operational Director, Safeguarding, Partnerships and Strategy