



Cabinet
21 May 2018

**Report from the Strategic Director
of Children and Young People**

Authority to Award Contracts for Targeted Mental Health Services In Schools (TAMHS) and Emotional Health Services for Children with Disabilities, Children in Care and Care Leavers

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	n/a
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report makes recommendations regarding the procurement of contracts for the provision of Emotional Health and Wellbeing services.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval to directly award a contract to Central and North West London NHS Trust for 12 months for Targeted Mental Health Services in schools (TaMHS) funded by DSG.
- 1.3 This report also seeks approval to directly award a contract to Central and North West London NHS Trust for Emotional Health and Wellbeing services for children with disabilities, Looked After Children and Care Leavers for 12 months.
- 1.4 There are opportunities to develop jointly commissioned Emotional Health and Wellbeing services with Brent Clinical Commissioning Group. These direct contract awards will enable service alignment and continuity whilst further work is done to develop a joint commissioning strategy with Brent CCG.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approves an exemption pursuant to Contract Standing Order 84(a) of the requirement to tender a 12 month contract for Targeted Mental Health Services in schools for the operational reasons set out in paragraph 3.2.
- 2.2 Approves the award of a 12 month contract for Targeted Mental Health Services in schools from 1st August 2018 to 31st July 2019 to Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust for the value of £237,000.
- 2.3 Approves an exemption pursuant to Contract Standing Order 84(a) of the requirement to tender a 12 month contract for Emotional Health and Wellbeing services for children with disabilities aged 0-18, Looked after Children and Care Leavers for the operational reasons set out in paragraph 3.6.
- 2.4 Approves the award of a 12 month contract for Emotional Health and Wellbeing services for children with disabilities aged 0-18, Looked After Children and Care Leavers from 1st September 2018 to 31st August 2019 to Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust for the value of £235,000.

3.0 Background

Targeted Mental Health services in schools (TaMHS)

- 3.1 TaMHS provides school based support for children aged 5 to 16 and their families who are experiencing social, emotional and mental health difficulties. It is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant with some schools commissioning directly through their individual school budgets. Evaluation of the service demonstrates positive impact and outcomes for children and families. The service is valued by schools. The service currently employs 4 FTE therapists who are allocated to a specific school for half a day or a day each week providing a range of support.
- 3.2 Approval from Cabinet to grant an exemption from the requirement to tender and approve to award a contract to Central and North West London NHS Trust from 1st August 2018 to 31st July 2019 would ensure that the existing provision to schools continue for the next academic year whilst options for delivery of Emotional Health and Wellbeing services to schools are explored in collaboration with schools.

Mental Health Services for Children with Disabilities, Looked After Children and Care Leavers

- 3.3 From 2014, the Council has contracted with West London Mental Health Trust to deliver mental health support for children with disabilities aged 0-13. This

service has provided direct therapy work with children and consultation support to social workers and foster carers in the Brent Council LAC & Permanency service.

- 3.4 Since the contract was first awarded, the priority needs of Brent children and young people have changed. There has been an increased demand for emotional health and wellbeing support for children with disabilities aged 14-18, as well as an increased need for support for Looked After Children and Care Leavers. West London Mental Health Trust have issues with varying the current service to respond to these changing needs under the current contract and have faced challenges in recruiting workers to do more direct intervention with children and young people.
- 3.5 Negotiations with Central and North West London NHS Trust have identified the skills and capabilities to deliver a new service model, which will focus on direct therapeutic support to a wider age range of children with disabilities, Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
- 3.6 The benefits of a Direct Award to Central and North West London NHS Trust include:
- Services covered by this contract would be delivered by the same provider that Brent CCG commissions to deliver specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Central and North West London NHS Trust.
 - Contracting with one provider will therefore improve access to joined up interventions across a continuum of Emotional Health and Wellbeing services including specialist CAMHS, for children with disabilities, Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
 - Current council partnership work with Central and North West London NHS Trust will enable future service development and delivery in response to the changing needs of Brent children and young people.
 - Central and North West London NHS Trust have a successful track record in recruiting specialist CAMHS workers with the skills and capabilities to work with older children with disabilities and Looked After Children and Care Leavers.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The existing contract for Targeted Mental Health Services in schools with the Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust has an annual contract value of £237k and is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and income from schools who buy into the service.
- 4.2 The existing contract for mental health support services for children with disabilities with West London Mental Health Trust has an annual contract value of £235k and is funded from the General Fund.

- 4.3 Direct award of these contracts removes the potential to achieve savings following re-procurement of the contracts. The department will need to identify alternative savings to achieve the 10% procurement target against these two contracts.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Approval is sought to directly award contracts for a period of 12 months each. These services are classified as Schedule 3 Services under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("PCR 2015"). The estimated value over the lifetime of the proposed contracts are respectively £235,000 and £237,000 and consequently below the threshold for full application of the PCR 2015.
- 5.2 The proposed contracts are classified as a Medium Value Contracts under the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and should thus be procured through a competitive tender exercise. As detailed in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.6, officers have indicated that there are considered to be good operational reasons not to tender the contract but instead award to the provider identified in Recommendations. In the circumstances, an exemption from the requirement to tender in accordance with Contracts Standing Orders and Financial Regulations is sought. Cabinet is permitted to grant such an exemption pursuant to CSO 84(a) if it considers that there are good operational and/or financial reasons
- 5.3 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty requiring the Council in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 5.4 Members are referred to Section 6 below and will note that no negative diversity implications have been identified.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 An Equalities Analysis screening exercise was undertaken prior to contract specification 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.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 As this report affects all wards, consultation with specific ward members has not been conducted.

- 7.2 Children in Care and Care Leavers have been consulted on the emotional health and wellbeing services and support that they need. Their feedback has been incorporated into the revised contract specification for this award.
- 7.3 The feedback from children and young people who received TaMHS support in 2017/18 has informed the development of the revised contract specification for this award.
- 7.4 Consultation with children and young people and professionals through Brent Children's Trust Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services group has informed the development of both contracts service specifications.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 There are no direct staffing or accommodation implications for the Council arising from the Recommendations.

Report sign off:

GAIL TOLLEY

Strategic Director of Children and Young People