



Officer Key Decision

Report to the Corporate Director of Children and Young People

Authority to award contract for the provision of a Targeted Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children & Young People in identified vulnerable groups

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Part Exempt Appendices 1 and 3 are exempt as they contain the following category of exempt information as specified in Paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely: "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)"
No. of Appendices:	Four Appendix 1 (Exempt) Name of tenders Appendix 2 Tender Evaluation grid Appendix 3 (Exempt) Social Value Benefits Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment
Background Papers¹:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Shirley Parks Interim Director, Safeguarding, Partnerships and Strategy 020 8937 4529 Shirley.parks@brent.gov.uk Michelle Gwyther Interim Head of Forward Planning, Performance and Partnerships Michelle.gwyther@brent.gov.uk Sharon Buckby Head of Inclusion and Virtual School Headteacher sharon.buckby@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report concerns the procurement of a contract for a Targeted Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People in Identified Vulnerable Groups. This report requests authority to award a contract as required by Contract Standing Order 88. This report summarises the process undertaken in tendering this contract and, following the completion of the evaluation of the tenders, recommends to whom the contract should be awarded.
- 1.2 The new contract will be for two (2) years with an option to extend for up to a maximum of one (1) year.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Corporate Director of Children and Young People:

- 2.1 Approves the award of the contract for a Targeted Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People in Identified Vulnerable Groups to The Anna Freud Centre t/a Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families (Company Registration number 3819888) for two (2) years with an option to extend for up to a maximum of one (1) year.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004, local authorities are required to co-operate with others in promoting the wellbeing of children in the authority's area. Under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 the local authority is required to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children whenever it carries out any act or makes any decision. Statutory guidance for local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and NHS England, March 2015, states that the corporate parenting responsibilities of local authorities include a duty (under section 22(3) (a) of the Children Act 1989) to safeguard and promote the emotional, mental health and physical welfare of the children they look after.
- 3.2 The North West London Integrated Care System (NWL ICS) Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Local Transformation Plan 2019 – 2024, refreshed in autumn 2021, outlines how the NWL ICS will seek to improve local services. The ambition is to ensure that every child in Brent can access appropriate needs-based and person-centred mental health and emotional wellbeing support that significantly improves outcomes.
- 3.3 The Council and Central and North West London NHS Trust (CNWL) have jointly agreed the service approach for the Targeted Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People in Identified Vulnerable Groups in Brent. The approach is in line

with the Thrive model that has been adopted in Brent and will be part of a continuum of support for children and young people delivered by the health economy. The aim is to improve the efficiency of how children and young people's mental health services are organised, jointly commissioned and delivered and to reduce any duplication in provision. To this end there needs to be:

- A clear gateway/"triage" processes to ensure timely access and prioritisation of targeted vulnerable children and young people
- Rapid advice and support and signposting to appropriate services
- A focus on early identification, intervention and prevention - as part of a continuum of service delivery offering training, consultation and advice to professionals and carers.

3.4 The new commissioned service will provide a core service offer for a Targeted Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People in Identified Vulnerable Groups including Looked After Children, children with disabilities aged 0-25, children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs, children and young people at risk of exclusion from school or alternative provisions and children and young people who are at risk of multiple vulnerabilities including child sexual exploitation, gang affiliation and domestic violence. The new service will also provide additional clinical input for a period of 18 months to a peripatetic delivery model which will provide targeted support within identified schools and communities.

3.5 The Core Service will run over 3 years and will provide:

- A targeted mental health and emotional wellbeing service supporting children and young people aged up to 18, within identified priority groups, or up to 25 for children and young people with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) as a primary need identified in their SEND Support or Education, Health and Care Plan. This is aimed at the effective early targeting of help to vulnerable children and young people requiring mental health support
- A central triage referral system for assessing need. Following this children and young people are either referred to the targeted emotional health and wellbeing clinical support provided by the service, or signposted to other services to meet their assessed needs.
- An evidence-based intervention programme that will include assessment, diagnosis, and treatment through therapeutic interventions
- A range of therapeutic interventions, including psychosocial intervention, relapse prevention advice, cognitive behaviour therapy, coping and social skills training, motivational intervention, short-term family support interventions and art or drama therapy, all of which are delivered by a range of qualified practitioners

- Advice, training and support via case conferencing for professionals working with children and young people
- Thematic training opportunities for all Brent schools each academic year
- A telephone helpline for professionals, families and young people for queries, advice, information and signposting during the hours of 9am and 5pm from Monday to Friday. Signposting will be provided to out of hours services.
- A service operating from both school and non-school settings, with flexibility to operate from locations within the community that are comfortable and accessible for individual children and young people
- A Single Point of Access (SPA) for all referrals, which will be from professionals working with children and young people, social workers, schools, parents and self-referrals.

3.6 The scope of the work of the additional clinicians as part of the peripatetic delivery model will see them working as part of a multi-disciplinary team for 18 months to:

- Provide a holistic assessment of young people's mental health and find out what their behavioural and emotional needs are, with relevant actions/referral identified
- Receive referrals from school wellbeing professionals, undertake an assessment of needs and develop appropriate intervention and support plans
- Provide screening for developmental disorders such as ADHD and Autistic Spectrum Disorder and/or post diagnosis liaising with Education Psychologist to enable effective in school support
- Rapid support to include both signposting to appropriate services or direct intervention and support
- Work with the child and family on the most appropriate intervention and support plan
- Screen referrals to CAMHS and fast-track to the core CAMHS team for support where relevant
- Help to identify where absence from school is due to wellbeing/health needs, so that tutors can be a bridge for children from home to school to support their regular attendance.

3.7 The new contract will be for two (2) years with an option to extend for up to a maximum of one (1) year.

The Tender Process

3.8 The new contract will be let using the Contract Terms issued with the invitation to tender. Invitations to Tender were advertised on the London Tenders Portal on the 22nd July 2022 to seek initial expressions of interest.

- 3.9 This procurement has been conducted in accordance with The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the Regulations). At the time of the commencement of this procurement exercise, the threshold for Schedule 3 services for the purposes of the Regulations was £663,540. Accordingly, as the value of the proposed contract exceeds the aforementioned threshold for this category of service, a Contract Notice was placed on the Find a Tender service, Contracts Finder service and the London Tenders Portal on 22 July 2022. Bidders were provided with a specification, details of the tender approach, and were invited to complete the published tender documents comprising of a selection questionnaire, quality questions, pricing schedule and a social value action plan using the Council's Electronic Tendering Facility. Five contractors subsequently completed the questionnaire.
- 3.10 The tendering instructions stated 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 criteria:

Award criteria	Weighting
Service delivery	15%
Quality Management	7%
A Diverse Community	3%
Safeguarding	5%
Workforce	12%
Mobilisation	5%
Social Value	10%
Price	40%
Presentation	3%

Evaluation process

- 3.11 The tender evaluation was carried out by a panel of officers from the Children's commissioning team, Integration and Improved Outcomes and Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust.
- 3.12 All tenders had to be submitted electronically no later than the 6th September at 11:00am. Each member of the evaluation panel read the five tenders received and carried out an initial evaluation of how well they considered each of the award criteria was addressed in the tender.
- 3.13 The panel met on the 15th September and 4th - 6th October and each submission was moderated by Procurement in the presence of the evaluation panel.
- 3.14 The top two ranking bidders identified after adding their quality, social and price scores together were invited to present to the evaluation panel on a known presentation topic set out in the Invitation to Tender

on the 12th October 2022. The presentation was also evaluated by representatives from Young People who were part of the evaluation panel.

- 3.15 The names of the tenderers are contained in Appendix 1. The scores received by the tenderers are included in Appendix 2. It is to be noted that Tenderer Contractor A was the highest scoring tenderer. Officers therefore recommend the award of the contract to Tenderer A, namely The Anna Freud Centre t/a Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families.
- 3.16 The contract will commence on the 1st February 2023 subject to the Council's observation of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period noted in paragraph 5.4 below.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Part 3 of the Council's Constitution states that the Corporate Director of Children and Young People Services has delegated authority to approve the award of contracts for services valued at less than £2 million
- 4.2 Based on a proposed contract term of 2 years with the option to extend by a further 12 months, the total cost of the proposed contract is **£1,734,506**.
- 4.3 The funding available for this contract over 3 years totals £1,749,568 and includes annual contributions from the General Fund (£218,000), Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (£216,856), Pupil Premium grant (£65,000) and a one-off contribution from CNWL of £250,000, which will be allocated, to Year 1 and Year 2. The table below shows the funding available across the 3 year period. There will be a small saving of £15,062, which can go towards reducing the contributions from the General Fund and the DSG.

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total over 3 years
Pupil premium (VS)	£65,000	£65,000	£65,000	£195,000
General fund	£218,000	£218,000	£218,000	£654,000
DSG	£216,856	£216,856	£216,856	£650,568
CNWL	£166,666	£83,334	-	£250,000
Total	£666,522	£583,190	£499,856	£1,749,568

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Officers are proposing to enter into a contract for a Targeted Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People in Identified Vulnerable Groups to The Anna Freud Centre t/a Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families for a period of two (2) years with an option to extend by an additional one (1) year.

The value of the proposed contract over its lifetime is in excess of the procurement threshold for Schedule 3 Services currently set at £663,540 (inclusive of VAT) and the award of the contract is therefore governed by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the “PCR 2015”). The award is also subject to the Council’s own Standing Orders in respect of Medium Value Contracts and Financial Regulations.

- 5.2 Schedule 3 services valued over the applicable threshold are subject to “the light touch regime” which requires authorities to comply with mandatory procedural rules that involve: 1) Advertising requirements; 2) Award Procedures; and 3) Publishing Contract Award information.
- 5.3 Officers have confirmed at paragraphs 3.7 to 3.14 that they complied with the publishing requirements set out in the PCR 2015 and the steps that have been taken to comply with the procurement principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment, transparency, mutual recognition and proportionality.
- 5.4 As indicated in paragraph 5.1, the award of the contract is subject to the Council’s own Standing Orders in respect of Medium Value Contracts. Chief Officers have delegated to them power to award Medium Value Contracts in accordance with paragraph 9.5, of Part 3 of the Constitution.
- 5.5 The Council must observe a mandatory minimum 10 calendar day standstill period before the contract can be awarded. Therefore, once the Corporate Director of Children and Young People has determined which tenderer if any should be awarded the contract, all tenderers will be issued with written notification of the contract award decision. A minimum 10 calendar day standstill period will then be observed before the contract is concluded – this period will begin the day after all Tenderers are sent notification of the award decision – and additional debrief information will be provided to unsuccessful tenderers in accordance with the PCR 2015. As soon as possible after the standstill period ends, the successful tenderer will be issued with a letter of acceptance and the contract can commence.
- 5.6 The council’s duties (as applicable to this procurement) in connection with the TUPE Regulations are contained in Section 8 and the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 are contained in Section 9.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no equality implications
- 6.2 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from

the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

- 6.3 There is no prescribed manner in which the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary.
- 6.4 The service seeks to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people to provide the foundations for:
- Children and young people to be happy, healthy and thrive.
 - Children, young people and their families being afforded the opportunity to reach and realise their full potential.
- 6.5 The service is designed to target the most vulnerable groups of children and young people providing early identification and support the prevention of escalation to more specialist services by promoting resilience and offering access to effective support without tiers or barriers. The Equality Impact Assessment did not identify any adverse for any groups on the basis of protected characteristics (Appendix 4).

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 Consultation has been undertaken with a range of stakeholders in different forums to identify any gaps in service provision to inform service development. The proposed service design has been informed by recent consultations with children and young people and their families in relation to the SEND Strategy 2021-25, the Youth Strategy 2021-23 and a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This is alongside feedback from children, families and professionals on the pilot service, and feedback from Brent Young People Thrive and Brent Young Foundation. Consultation and feedback has provided useful insights into concerns about mental health and wellbeing and what is required to support those concerns.
- 7.2 The Brent Local Offer is regularly reviewed with the Parent Carer Forum on the suitability of presentation, content and format to ensure that families can access the right information in the right way and at the right time to access the appropriate services they need in Brent. This includes information about the Mental Health and Emotional wellbeing services commissioned by the LA and the NWL CCG.
- 7.3 Two young people were trained to participate in the formal tender evaluation process.
- 7.4 As this service affects all wards, there has not been separate or specific consultation with ward members.
- 7.5 The Lead Member for Children, Young People and Schools has been consulted on the approach set out in this report.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 There are no direct staffing implications for the Council arising from the tender process as the services are currently provided by an external provider. As part of the procurement process, employee liability information will be sought from current contractor and provided to the tenderers to ensure comparability of cover. The TUPE process and any issues that may arise from it will be managed during the mobilisation phase, which will be at least two months between contract award and commencement.

9.0 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

- 9.1 The Council is under a duty pursuant to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 ("the Social Value Act") to consider how services being procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area; how, in conducting the procurement process, the Council might act with a view to securing that improvement; and whether the Council should undertake consultation. Officers have had regard to considerations contained in the Social Value Act in relation to the procurement.
- 9.2 Social value had a weighting of 10% of the evaluation score and in evaluating tenders, the Council requested proposals address the following initiatives:
- Contribute a number of hours to local businesses, voluntary and community organisations for: business support, financial advice, legal advice, HR advice
 - Helping with community clear-up days gardening and food growing projects:
 - Supporting adults to take up physical activity, including making use of improved facilities on offer in the borough, such as our leisure centres and the Gladstone Park tennis courts
- 9.3 This contract will deliver the social value benefits set out in Appendix 3.

Related Document

Targeted MHWB Contract Authority to Tender report

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director of Children and Young People.