

	Officer Key Decision
	Report to the Corporate Director of Communities and Regeneration
Authority to award contract for Domestic Abuse Advocacy, Family Support and One-Stop Shop Services	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Part Exempt – Appendix 1 is exempt as it contains 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:	3 Appendix 1 – Names of Tenderers (exempt) Appendix 2 – Evaluation Grid Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Davina Smith Community Safety Manager Davina.smith@brent.gov.uk Kibibi Octave Head of Community Safety and Prevent kibibi.octave@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report concerns the need to identify services to provide residents of Brent with a specialist Domestic Abuse advocacy (Independent domestic violence advocacy - IDVA), family support and one-stop shop services. This report requests authority to award contracts 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.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Corporate Director of Communities and Regeneration:

- 2.1 Approves the award of the contract for Domestic Abuse Advocacy, Family support and One-Stop Shop services to Advance at a value of £1,999,775.28 for a period of 3 years with the option to extend for two successive periods of 1+1 year.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Officers received approval to invite tenders for Domestic Abuse Advocacy, Family support and One-Stop Shop service in 2022.

The Domestic Abuse Advocacy, Family support and One-Stop Shop covers a range of services which includes services of Independent Domestic Violence advisors (IDVAs) who deal with the safety of survivors at high risk of harm (as defined by CAADA – Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse) and providing specialist advocacy case workers that focus on working predominantly with high risk victims etc to a range of interventions including practical and emotional support to substance misuse services, etc. The service will be survivor's primary point of contact, with the IDVAs working with them from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans and to put their clients 'on the path' to long-term safety and to reduce the risk. They also mobilise multiple resources on behalf of victims by coordinating the response from multiple agencies who might be involved with a case, including those working with perpetrators and children.

The Tender Process

- 3.2 The new contract will be let using the Council's contract terms and conditions for a period of 3 years with the option to extend for two successive periods of 1+1 year.
- 3.3 Advertisements were placed on the London Tenders Portal on 12/12/2022 to seek initial expressions of interest. An outline specification and details of the tender approach were provided and interested parties were invited to complete a Selection Questionnaire, Quality Questions, Social Value Method Statements and a Pricing Schedule using the Council's Electronic Tendering Facility. Two contractors subsequently completed the Selection Questionnaire, Quality Questions, Social Value Method Statements and the Pricing Schedule.
- 3.4 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:
 - Demonstrated ability to provide the service

- Quality assessment 75.00%
- Value for money and price 15.00%
- Social Value 10.00%

3.5 Tenderers were required to submit additional information providing details of their proposed arrangements for performing the contract including (but not limited to) the following:

Relevant Experience and Contract Examples

Evaluation process

3.6 The tender evaluation was carried out by a panel of officers from Community Safety, Children's and Young Peoples services.

3.7 All tenders had to be submitted electronically no later than 12.00pm on 09/01/2023. Tenders were opened on 09/01/2023 and two valid tenders were received. Each member of the evaluation panel read the tenders and carried out an initial evaluation of how well they considered each of the award criteria was addressed in the tender.

3.8 The panel met on 16/01/2023 and again on 31/01/2023 each submission was marked by the whole panel against the award criteria.

3.9 The names of the tenderers are contained in Appendix 1. The scores received by the tenderers are included in Appendix 2. It will be noted that Tenderer A was the highest scoring tenderer. Officers therefore recommend the award of the contract to Tenderer A, namely Advance (Advocacy and non-violence community education).

3.10 The contract will commence on 1st April 2023 subject to the Council's observation of the requirements of the mandatory standstill period noted in paragraph 5.3 below.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Part 3 of the Council's Constitution states that the Strategic Director of Communities and Regeneration has delegated authority to approve the award of contracts for services valued at less than £2 million.

4.2 The value of this contract is £1,999,775.28, assuming that the contract runs for the full five years available, including the extensions. This is a cost of just under £0.4m/year.

4.3 It is anticipated that the cost of this contract will be funded from an internal consortium of pooled budgets, which include Public Health £163,400.00 Children and Young People Service £108,936. Community Safety £197,000.00. In total funding combined to the value of £469,336.00. The MARAC

coordination will be delivered in-house and the cost will be from the above allocation (at an estimated cost of £70,000.00). This is sufficient to fund a contract of £0.4m/year.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The value of this contract over its lifetime is in excess of the threshold for Schedule 3 Services under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ('PCR') and the award of the contract is therefore governed by the PCR. The award is subject to the Council's own Standing Orders in respect of Medium Value Contracts and Financial Regulations.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 The Council will observe the 10 calendar day standstill period as required under the PCR before the contract can be awarded. Therefore once the Corporate Director has determined which tenderer should be awarded the contract, all tenderers will be issued with written notification of the contract award decision and the 10 calendar day standstill period will then be observed and the successful tenderer will be issued with a letter of acceptance and the contract can commence.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The public sector equality duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a "protected characteristic" and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 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 proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no negative equality implications resulting from the request to award in this report.
- 6.5 Brent Council is required to make anticipatory reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled service users have equitable access to all services. We continue working to make our web services compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA standards.
- 6.6 Brent Council have previously commissioned Domestic Abuse provider – ADVANCE, and other services commissioned by the council. We undertake regular monitoring and collation of data relating to equality as part of the contract including gender, disability, sexuality, ethnicity, and age (with particular interest in young victims and perpetrators). The advocacy service are monitored on their ability to deliver effective services to specialist BAME victims, and to link in with other local specialist partners to facilitate this.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 Consultation began in 2021 and was completed prior to tendering. Once the contract is awarded, promotion will take place to raise awareness.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 This service is currently provided by an external contractor however with the MARAC delivery coming in house, there is likely to be implications for the council, as the current provider does have two members of staff delivering the coordination and admin role who would be eligible to apply under TUPE. No other staff would be affected. If the staff once consulted do not wish to transfer then the council will follow its recruitment processes. HR have started the TUPE process with the affected provider.
- 8.2 The provider will remain co-located within the Civic Centre under a license and the Police station, supporting partnership working.

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 was weighted at 10.00% of the evaluation score.

Related documents: Officer key decision report, [Decision - Commissioning of Domestic Abuse Support Services \(brent.gov.uk\)](https://www.brent.gov.uk/decision-commissioning-domestic-abuse-support-services)

Report sign off:

Zahur Khan

Director of Communities and engagement.