

	Officer Key Decision
	Report to Corporate Director for Children & Young People and Community Development
Authority to tender contract for provision of Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme	

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)	Open
No. of Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Equalities Impact Assessment
Background Papers¹:	None
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	<p>Adama Fregiste Community Safety Manager Adama.Fregiste@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Helena Frean Violence and Vulnerability Coordinator Helena.Frean@brent.gov.uk</p>

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report concerns the procurement of a contract for Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme. This report requests approval to invite tenders in respect of specialist services to support people at risk of vulnerability and/or reoffending behaviour as required by Contract Standing Orders 88 and 89.

2. Recommendation(s)

That the Corporate Director of Children and Young People and Community Development:

- 2.1 Approves inviting tenders for the procurement of a contract for Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme on the basis of the pre - tender considerations set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.
- 2.2 Approves Officers evaluating the tenders referred to in 2.1 above on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out in paragraph 4.0 of the report.

3. Detail

Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1 This proposal aligns with Brent Council's commitment to:

- (a) Creating a Thriving Community as per strategic priority three under the Brent Borough Plan, with reference to outcome two, building a safer borough:
 - i. Work with the Safer Brent Partnership to strengthen our early intervention approach to community safety, agreeing multi-agency interventions to reduce crime, exploitation and all forms of violence against women and girls.
 - ii. Keep our streets safe, by working with Partners to reduce harm to our community, preventing re-offending and bringing prolific offenders to justice.
 - iii. Tackle anti-social behaviour, by working with drug and alcohol outreach services, businesses and residents. Ensuring that we identify emerging hotspots, intervene early and design out crime and anti-social behaviour.
- (b) Providing the Best Start in Life as per strategic priority four under the Brent Borough Plan, with reference to outcome one:
 - i. Improving approaches and support around safeguarding, both in relation to contextual and transitional safeguarding.
- (c) Enhancing multi-agency collaboration to improve outcomes for victims and prevent future tragedies.

3.2 Background

The Council requires the provision of a Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme. Officers have considered whether the Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme can be provided by the Council itself but have concluded that Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme is best provided by a contractor. Direct delivery would not have allowed the council to improve and utilise a wider skillset of experience and engagement opportunities to enhance the service delivery. A tender is considered to be the fairest way to identify the best provider to deliver the programmes.

3.3 Additional Background

In March 2025 the Police and Crime Plan for London 2025 – 2029² was launched highlighting its first priority as “reducing violence and criminal exploitation” recognising the harm violent crime causes to victims, families and communities and looking to focus on not only reducing violent crime, but also on addressing its underlying causes. Over the course of this Plan the Mayor wants to make London a safer city for all, with a focus on, amongst other things, preventing and reducing violence affecting young people and reducing reoffending by the most violent and high-risk groups.

3.4 Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme

² [A Safer London for Everyone | London City Hall](#)

- 3.4.1 The programme will have multiple functions for the duration of this contract and will provide support in the following ways:
- Provide a street based outreach service to enable earlier identification and intervention of those on the cusp of offending or not yet known to statutory services and at risk of increased offending;
 - Gaining access to the main London prisons such as HMP Wormwood Scrubs, Wandsworth and Feltham Young Offenders Institute to be able to provide support to cohort offenders prior to release;
 - Meet the targeted cohort at the prison gate (London only) when released and escort to release appointments;
 - Provide flexible working hours to meet the needs of the service users to be able to accommodate work and school hours, shift work outside of Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm dependent on a case by case basis.
 - Provide assistance with appointments as required i.e. escort to probation appointments, health appointments etc.
 - Provide support around the pathways of reoffending³ e.g., housing support and assistance securing housing, education, training and employment, with the aim of securing employment and support with drug and alcohol needs.
 - Provide a mentor which specialises in youth justice interventions to focus on young offenders and their rehabilitation.
- 3.4.2 The programme will include a pre-release prison programme and an extensive community street based outreach mentoring, activity and personal development programme for the selected cohort above requiring intervention on the Violence and Vulnerability Programme.
- 3.4.3 The pre-release prison programme will provide engagement with the cohort in custody and nearing release. For this cohort, being in custody can be a worrying, uncertain and stressful period with concerns around readjusting back into society, issues with employment, housing and social security benefits. This programme would enable a positive, professional relationship to be established to strengthen longer term engagement and assisting with sustainable positive outcomes for the offenders, as well as commence important work, such as mentoring, action planning for release and fitness and sports programmes.
- 3.4.4 This will be dedicated solely to those on the programme, and it will allow for a committed worker to provide wrap around support, alongside the Probation Service and other agencies, and be able to continue support when released. This element of the programme should create a smooth transition between the support provided whilst in prison and the support provided post release through the wider community programme.
- 3.4.5 In Brent, the programme delivers support through a sport based mentoring programme which includes access to individuals open to the Integrated Offender Management Programme.
- 3.4.6 The current programme activity is delivered at an annual contract cost of £114,824 until March 2026 and is grant funding from the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime's (MOPAC) London Crime Prevention Fund.

³ [Reducing Reoffending Plan 2022-25 for London](#)

- 3.4.7 There is a slight increase in programme support for 2026 – 2029, compared to 2022 - 2025, due to a reallocation of funds in MOPAC funding. Brent have determined that the programme is very beneficial; the support worker element helps a growing number of service users to increase motivation for change. Sustaining this resource is key to delivering positive outcomes for a vulnerable cohort.
- 3.4.8 The Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme will provide capacity to deal with a minimum of 220 persons per annum. The referrals will be made into the programme with Exploitation, Violence and Vulnerability Panel ('EVVP') and Integrated Offender Management ('IOM') who receive referrals from Children and Young People services, probation, police and other agencies involved in supporting offenders and/or those at risk of offending, as well as targeted outreach. The Programme is expected to include an appropriately resourced front line delivery service (including case work) that will provide support to those at risk of vulnerability and/or reoffending behaviour in the borough and support them to achieve positive outcomes. The Provider will offer one-to-one/group work support via an allocated caseload as well as a street based outreach service to target and engage the cohort. Street based outreach support, violence interrupter and diversionary opportunities leading to increased skills, training and employment are seen as a key component in tackling the issues referred to elsewhere within this document.
- 3.4.9 The total funding available from the LCPF from MOPAC is £169,864 per annum, totalling £509,592.00 excluding VAT over the course of 3 years up until March 2029. The initial contract period will be April 2026 – March 2029 (3 years). Given funding has been provided and successfully secured previously for this programme, and if funding does become available officers seek to include provision for an extension to the contract but not beyond an additional three years.
- 3.4.10 To address the demand for services we anticipate the new specification will provide the flexibility for the new provider to work creatively to address needs and access wider partnership support and interventions. Future variation and uplift in funding will be sought if successful. There is a large amount of evidence that supports early intervention and the longer-term financial benefits to the public purse.

4. Pre-tender Considerations

- 4.1 In accordance with Contract Standing Orders 88 and 89, pre-tender considerations for the procurement of the contract for Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme (the "Contract") have been set out below for the approval of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People and Community Development:

Ref.	Requirement	Response
(i)	The nature of the services / supplies / works.	Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention Programme
(ii)	The estimated value.	3 year initial contract value – £509,592.00 +20%VAT = £611,510.40
(iii)	The contract term.	3 years (with option to extend for additional 2+1 years)

Ref.	Requirement	Response	
(iv)	The tender procedure to be adopted.	Open	
v)	The procurement timetable.		Indicative dates are:
		Publish Preliminary Market Engagement Notice	05/11/2025
		Invite to tender	18/11/2025
		Deadline for tender submissions	15/12/2025 @1pm
		Evaluation & moderation of tender submissions	16/12/2025 - 07/01/2025
		Contract award decision	07/01/2025
		Report recommending Contract award circulated internally for comment	08/01/2026 - 19/01/2026
		Corporate Director approval	19/01/2026
		8 working day standstill period	20/01/2026 - 30/01/2026
		Contract Mobilisation	02/02/2026 onwards
		Contract start date	01/04/2026
(vi)	The evaluation criteria and process.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At selection stage shortlists are to be drawn up in accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement and Management Guidelines by the use of a selection questionnaire to identify organisations meeting the Council's financial standing requirements, technical capacity and technical expertise. At tender evaluation stage, the panel will evaluate the tenders against the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At tender evaluation stage, the panel will evaluate the tenders against the following criteria: Safeguarding, workforce model, relevant experience, service referral and accessibility. We intend to apportion 10% social value, 50% quality and 40% price. 	

Ref.	Requirement	Response
(vii)	Any business risks associated with entering the contract.	<p>The following business risks are considered associated with entering into the proposed contract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-compliance or failure to deliver • Commissioned provider breach of contract <p>All are adequately covered and mitigated within the contractual arrangements and through contract monitoring processes. Financial Services and Legal Services have been consulted concerning this contract and have identified the risks associated with entering into this contract set out in sections 5.0 and 6.0 of the report.</p>
(viii)	The Council's Best Value duties.	The adoption of an open procedure will allow the council to open up the opportunity to the market and ensure best value for money.
(ix)	Consideration of Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012	See Section 11 below.
(x)	Any staffing implications, including TUPE and pensions.	See section 10 below.
(xi)	The relevant financial, legal and other considerations.	See Financial Considerations at Section 5 and Legal Considerations at Section 6 below.
(xii)	Sustainability	Sustainability will be included in accordance with the Council's Sustainability Policy
(xiii)	Key Performance Indicators / Outcomes	Appropriate Key Performance Indicators / Outcomes will be included in the Contract.
(xiv)	Policy requirements including the National Procurement Policy Statement; prompt payment; London Living Wage; modern slavery; and carbon reduction	The Contract will require the payment of the London Living Wage.
(xv)	Sharing information to allow understanding of the Council's procurement	All relevant policies and information will be shared with the potential supplier during the procurement process.

Ref.	Requirement	Response
	policies and decisions	
(xvi)	Steps undertaken to remove or reduce barriers for SME participation in the procurement	Officers have considered whether any steps can be taken to remove or reduce barriers for SME participation in the procurement. It is considered that the procurement process recommended is appropriate for the procurement of a Diversion from Offending and Early Intervention programme required and upholds the principles of equal treatment, transparency, and non-discrimination.
(xv)	Contract Management	A contract manager will be appointed and appropriate contract management provisions will be included in the Contract.

5. Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 5.1 The Contextual Safeguarding, Violence Reduction Strategic Group (consisting of key stakeholders) has been consulted on the need to recommission services and areas of priority need.
- 5.2 The Lead Member for Community Protection has been briefed on the need to recommission services.
- 5.3 Public consultation on the Safer Brent Strategy 2024 - 2026 also included consideration of commissioned services and understanding those priorities/needs.

6. Financial Considerations

- 6.1 The estimated value of this Contract is £169,864 per annum, which totals £611,510.40 for an initial contract of 3 years.
- 6.2 The council have been successful in obtaining grant funding from MOPAC's London Crime Prevention Fund to deliver services until March 2029. Any potential financial risks are included within the remit of the grant agreement and none are anticipated for this programme.
- 6.3 The proposal to extend the contract term after the initial contract period is subject to confirmed funding arrangements to cover the period beyond 2029.

7. Legal Considerations

- 7.1 The estimated value of the Contract falls below the threshold for a Light Touch Service under the Procurement Act 2023 (the "PA23"), and the procurement is therefore governed in part only by the PA23.
- 7.2 The procurement is subject to the Council's own Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in respect of Medium Value Contracts given the procurement is valued at £611,510.40 (incl. VAT). For Medium Value Contracts, the Corporate Director must approve the pre-tender considerations set out in paragraph 4 above (Standing Order 89) and the inviting of tenders (Standing Order 88).

- 7.3 Once the tendering process is undertaken, Officers will report back to the Corporate Director in accordance with Contract Standing Orders, explaining the process undertaken in tendering the Contract and recommending award.

8. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 8.1 Pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010 (the “Public Sector Equality Duty”), the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,
- 8.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 The proposal in this report is directed to help vulnerable people in the borough and it has been subject to screening. Attached at Appendix 1 is a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment/Equality Analysis.

9. Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 9.1 There are no climate change and environmental considerations specifically linked to this programme.

10. Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

- 10.1 This service is currently provided by an external contractor and there are no direct implications for Council staff arising from retendering the contract, but the Council will obtain anonymised employee liability information from the current provider which will be provided as part of the procurement process.

11. Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

- 11.1 The Council is under 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 will have regard to considerations contained in the Social Value Act in relation to the procurement.

- 11.2 As mentioned in the pre-tender consideration above, 10% of the overall evaluation criteria is allocated to Social Value. It is envisaged that the successful provider should be able to offer community benefits to the residents in Brent on the basis of the Council's Social Value policy.

12. Communication Considerations

- 12.1 This is a high risk and referral only programme using specified referral pathways and therefore public communication campaigns will not be relevant to supporting its delivery.

Report sign off:

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director, Children & Young People and Community Development