

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to: Mark Longstaff, Head of Commissioning and Asset Management

Title of Report: Procurement of  
Domestic Abuse Services – Award  
of Contracts

**Date: 25 February 2019**

**Portfolio:** Children, Young People and Learning  
  
Community Safety and Engagement  
  
Adult Social Care  
  
Finance and Resources

**Cabinet Member(s):** Councillor Peter Earley  
  
Councillor Carole Burdis  
  
Councillor Gary Bell  
  
Councillor Ray Glendon

### Report from Service

**Area:** Commissioning and Asset Management

**Responsible Officer:** Mark Taylor, Strategic Commissioning Manager **Tel: (0191) 643 8755**

**Wards affected:** All

## PART 1

### 1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to appoint Harbour Support Services as the successful provider for the Integrated Domestic Abuse Service and Acorns (North Tyneside) as the successful provider for the Children's Therapeutic Service.

On 15 October 2018 Cabinet granted permission to commence a procurement exercise to secure specialist domestic abuse services across the Borough of North Tyneside. A procurement process was undertaken to identify the most economically advantageous tender or tenders in accordance with Authority's Contract Standing Orders, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and EU procurement regulations. The evaluation process identified Harbour Support Services and Acorns (North Tyneside) as the successful providers.

### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the Head of Commissioning and Asset Management following consultation with Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding, Head of Resources and the Senior Manager Legal Services and Information Governance together with the Cabinet Members for Children, Young People and Learning, Community Safety and Engagement, Adult Social Care and Finance and Resources award the contract for

Integrated Domestic Abuse Services to Harbour Support Services and the contract for Children's Therapeutic Services to Acorns (North Tyneside).

### **1.3 Council Plan and Policy Framework**

This report directly links to the Our North Tyneside Plan 2018-2020 'People' Theme and to the priorities of 'Our people will be cared for, protected and supported, be healthy and well, be ready for school and be ready for work and life'.

Tackling Domestic Abuse is a key priority for the Safer North Tyneside Partnership and the Children, Young People and Learners Partnership.

### **1.4 Information:**

1.4.1 North Tyneside currently commissions domestic abuse services. The commissioned services are an integral part of the wider multi-agency approach to tackle domestic abuse. This is focused on prevention and early intervention as well as support for victims. The current domestic abuse contracts will terminate on 31 March 2019.

1.4.2 It was decided to re-commission the services using an integrated service model which provides refuge based accommodation and other placements options, outreach support and an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor Service. Findings from recent consultation events highlighted the need for more activities and support sessions for children and young people whilst resident in the refuge.

Cabinet approved the procurement of these specialist domestic abuse services on the above basis in North Tyneside on 15 October 2018.

1.4.3 Following this decision, a procurement exercise was carried out in accordance with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and EU procurement regulations. The procurement process resulted in 3 compliant tenders:

- 2 submissions for the Integrated Domestic Abuse Support Service
- 1 submission for the Children's Therapeutic Service

1.4.1 The compliant tenders were fully evaluated and the successful tenderers met the requirements set out in the service specification.

1.4.2 Contracting arrangements are on terms agreed by the Senior Manager, Legal Services and Information Governance.

### **1.5 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration:

#### Option 1

To approve the recommendation in paragraph 1.2 of this report.

#### Option 2

Not to approve the recommendation in paragraph 1.2 of this report and decide not to re-procure the service.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

## **1.6 Reasons for recommended option:**

The Authority has a duty, alongside statutory partners, to safeguard children and vulnerable adults at risk of abuse and neglect including domestic abuse. The current contracts will end on 31 March 2019 and the tenders recommended for approval were evaluated as the highest quality proposals and compliant with the fixed price for each service. This will ensure continuity of services for those accessing support.

## **1.7 Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this Report

## **1.8 Contact officers:**

Mark Taylor, Strategic Commissioning Manager Tel: (0191) 643 8755

## **1.9 Background information:**

The following background papers/information has been used in the compilation of this report:

- (1) [North Tyneside Council - Report and Minutes of Cabinet, 15 October 2018](#)

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

The contract is being let on a fixed price basis i.e. the contractor will bear the risk of any additional costs.

The annual contract value for the integrated service is £0.330m.

The annual contract value for the specialist children's therapeutic service is £0.058m. This is jointly funded between the Authority and North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

The contract is for an initial contract period of 2 years, with an option for the Authority to extend the contract/contracts for a further 12 month period.

The contract value can be contained within the current Commissioning and Asset Management budget provision.

### **2.2 Legal**

As the predicted value of the contracts exceeds £500,000, Cabinet approval was required to undertake this procurement. This was obtained on 15 October 2018. The procurement process undertaken has been in accordance with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders and EU and UK public procurement requirements. The contract award is based on the highest quality of tenders received and the successful tenderers will be appointed on terms and conditions approved by the Senior Manager, Legal Services and Information Governance.

Following agreement by the Cabinet on 15 October 2018, this report seeks the delegated officer decision of the Head of Commissioning and Asset Management in consultation with the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding, the Head of Resources and the Senior Manager for

Legal Services and Information Governance and the Cabinet Members for Children, Young People and Learning, Community Safety and Engagement, Adult Social Care and Finance and Resources to award the contracts to the selected providers.

## **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

Consultation has been undertaken with the Head of Commissioning and Asset Management in consultation with the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding, the Head of Resources and the Senior Manager for Legal Services and Information Governance and the Cabinet Members for Children, Young People and Learning, Community Safety and Engagement, Adult Social Care and Finance and Resources

## **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

## **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

The tender process includes an assessment of businesses' equality and diversity practices and record. The tenders conform positively to all Equality and Diversity questions within the Standard Selection Questionnaire contained in Part 2 of the Authority's standard Invitation to Tender document

## **2.6 Risk management**

The tender process includes an assessment of risk. Business continuity arrangements and risk assessments were assessed during the evaluation process and found to be compliant with requirements.

## **2.7 Crime and disorder**

The commissioning of this service supports the on-going objectives of the Safer North Tyneside partnership in relation to its priorities around tackling domestic abuse and supporting victims.

## **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report

## **PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Chief Executive
- Head of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer

- Monitoring Officer

- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service