

North Tyneside Council

Report to the Elected Mayor

Date: 16 December 2022

Title: Childrens Social Care Managed Team

Portfolio(s): Childrens Services	Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Steven Phillips
Report from Service Area: Childrens Services	
Responsible Officer: Julie Firth, Director of Childrens Services	Tel: (0191) 6431454
Wards affected: All	

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The recruitment market is currently volatile, the Authority is increasingly finding it difficult to recruit and retain suitably qualified employees within the Childrens Services Department. The Authority contracted with a provider to deliver a managed team of social care staff to work within children's social care to provide additional essential capacity for a further three months. In accordance with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders Cabinet approval is required.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the Elected Mayor (on behalf of Cabinet) agree to the Authority entering a contract with the current contractor in relation to the delivery of a managed team of social care staff within Childrens Services for 3 months to March 2023.

1.3 Forward Plan:

It has not been possible to include this item on the forward plan.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priority in the 2021/25 Our North Tyneside Plan:

A thriving North Tyneside

- We will review how the council purchases and contracts for goods and services to maximise value for money, social value and environmental sustainability

A family friendly North Tyneside

- We will provide outstanding children's services, events and facilities so North Tyneside is a great place for family life

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The Authority entered into a contract with the current provider to deliver a managed team of social care staff to work within the Children's social care team to provide additional essential capacity that is urgently required due to volatility within the employment market.

The Authority contracted with the current supplier to provide interim support, as this support needs to continue the value of spend with supplier now requires a Cabinet decision in accordance with the Authority's Constitutional requirements. The contractor will be procured using an existing procurement compliant framework to ensure value for money is achieved. It is preferred to continue to with the incumbent supplier for continuity of service.

This ongoing capacity is required to ensure that the Authority fulfils its statutory duties.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration:

Option 1

To agree the Authority entering into a contract with the preferred provider.

Option 2

Not to agree the Authority entering into a contract with the preferred provider.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

It is recommended that the contract be entered into because this will ensure continuity of service. The incumbent provider will continue to deliver the services on behalf of the Authority. An established framework will be utilised to ensure that value for money is obtained.

1.8 Appendices:

None.

1.9 Contact officers:

Sarah Heslop, Strategic Manager Commercial and Procurement Tel: 0191 6435456
Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources Tel: 07581 045 261
Julie Firth, Director of Childrens Services Tel: (0191) 643 1454

1.10 Background information:

There are no background papers associated with this report.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The procurement of suppliers and contractors to complement the Authority's delivery needs is a critical part of the process to enable the successful delivery of key services. The budgets to pay for the costs of suppliers services are provided for via the General Fund.

The cost of the service is within existing budgets and is factored into the forecast overspend for the financial year, as reported regularly to Cabinet.

2.2 Legal

The procurement shall be carried out in compliance with the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 and all other procurement legislation that may be enacted or in force from time to time. Given the time constraints this matter has not been able to be presented to Cabinet and an urgent decision is therefore requested in accordance with the Authority's Constitution.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with the Cabinet Member and Director of Resources.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

N/A

2.4 Human rights

The preferred bidder has an anti- Modern Slavery Statement in place, supplied during the procurement process.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality or diversity issues directly arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

Any risk management issues are included within the Authority's risk register and will be managed by this process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder issues directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability issues directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Director of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Assistant Chief Executive X