

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Deputy Leader, Councillor Sue Fennimore

Date: 26/08/2021

Subject: Award Report for Violence Against Women and Girls Services

Report author: Felicity Charles, Community Safety Manager

Responsible Director: Sharon Lea, Strategic Director for the Environment

SUMMARY

In May 2021, Hammersmith & Fulham Council conducted a procurement exercise to appoint providers for the following services:

- Lot 1 – Violence Against Women and Girls Coordination Services
- Lot 2 – Violence Against Women and Girls Integrated Support Services

The procurement process undertaken was via the Open Procedure and both lots were tendered simultaneously, in line with the procurement strategy previously approved. All contracts are to commence on 1st October 2021 for a period of 3 years, with an option to extend them for an additional 2 years.

This report sets out the procurement process conducted and rationale for recommending the successful tenderers to proceed to contract award.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note that Appendix 2 is not for publication on the basis that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as set out in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).
2. That the Deputy Leader approves the award of Violence Against Women and Girls Integrated Support Services to Advance at a value of £188,403 per annum for a period of up to three years at the total value of £565,209, with an optional two year extension (1+1) at the value of £376,806. The total value with extension is £942,015. The contract commences on 1 October 2021.
3. That the Deputy Leader approves the award of Violence Against Women and Girls Coordination Services to Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA) at a value of £55,000 per annum for a period of up to three years at the total value of £165,000, with an optional two year extension (1+1) at the value of £110,000. The total value with extension is £275,000. The contract commences on 1 October 2021.

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	<p>The successful providers confirm that the staff involved in delivering the services will not be subject to zero-hour contracts, and will have suitable employment terms and conditions, including the payment of the London Living Wage.</p> <p>Providers have provided a statement identifying the social value they can offer related to the contract as part of the tendering process.</p>
Creating a compassionate council	The services being commissioned are provided to vulnerable members of our community.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	Local service users, residents and third sector providers have been consulted in the development of the specification of the services.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	Contract break clauses are included to provide flexibility should the grant funding reduce or be removed altogether.
Taking pride in H&F	The services contribute to the council's commitment to effectively respond to crime and antisocial behaviour.
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	The service makes use of products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable. It has a neutral impact in terms of Homes, buildings, infrastructure and energy, travel, consumption, ecology, adaption and Engagement and influence as it uses existing infrastructure.

Financial Impact

The estimated annual expenditure for the Coordination Service (£55,000) and the Integrated Support Service (£188,403) will be funded from the approved annual Environment Department budgets.

The funding for these services will be through a combination of MOPAC grants and existing base budgets.

The contracts are being awarded for a 5 year term (3 year initial term and a possible extension for a further 2 years). Any potential changes to the MOPAC grants allocations and the annual base budgets will need to be considered in the future delivery of these services. Clauses have been included within the contract to enable flexibility should the available funding change.

Legal Implications

The Council has the power to carry out these functions and procure these services under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

These contracts are all below the relevant threshold for public services contracts under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 so there is no obligation to undertake the advertising and competition requirements as set out in these rules.

These are a mixture of small and medium value contracts for the purposes of the Council's Contract Standing Orders. They have been subject to a competitive tendering exercise using the open procedure so the requirements of CSOs 9 and 13 have been complied with.

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Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. The Council provides Violence Against Women and Girls services to its residents as part of its response to ending VAWG. The current VAWG contracts expire on 30 September 2021. There are two contracts currently in place, one for the coordination of the Specialist Domestic Abuse Court (SDAC) and Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (DA MARAC), and one for Integrated Support Services (ISS).
2. As agreed in the procurement strategy, H&F and the Bi-Borough undertook a joint exercise – delivered by Westminster City Council – to procure Coordination and Integrated Support Services from a single provider or consortium. This enabled additional resource through economies of scale, while allowing H&F to operate a single-borough service with entirely sovereign budgetary, performance management and contractual arrangements.

3. This procurement was conducted using the open procedure via the capitalEsourcing portal. Tenders were scored on cost (30% of total weighting) and quality criteria (70% of total weighting) as agreed in the Procurement Strategy due to the importance of having high quality service provision in this field.
4. Three tenders were received in total, however only two were completed – one for Lot 1 and one for Lot 2. The recommended providers tender submissions were scored at a tender assessment panel (TAP) and deemed to be acceptable. Details of the tender questions and considerations and scoring of the tender assessment panel are contained in appendix 2.
5. One tender was received for Lot 1 – VAWG Coordination Services from Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse. The tender was examined and scored by the Tender Assessment Panel (TAP) who recommended that STADA are awarded the contract for the services for an initial term of three years (from 1 October 2021) with an option to extend for a further two years (1+1) subject to the availability of external funding beyond March 2025. The moderated tender score was 84.6/100 (20/20 price and 54.6/70 quality).

Summary of Scores – Lot 1

No	Question	Weighting	Weighted Score
1	Service Delivery	14	11.20
2	Service Model	14	11.20
3	Partnership & Working	7	5.60
4	Criminal Justice	7	7.00
5	MARAC	7	5.60
6	Performance Management	4	2.40
7	Accessibility	7	5.60
8	Implementation Plan	5	3.00
9	Social Value	5	3.00
	Quality	70.00	54.60
	Price	30.00	30.00
	Total	100.00	84.60

6. One tender was received for Lot 2 – VAWG Integrated Support Services from the Advance on behalf of the Angelou Partnership. The Angelou Partnership is a consortium of ten partner organisations, led by Advance, with specialisms across domestic abuse, sexual violence and abuse, harmful practices and working with BAME, LGBT and young victim/survivors. The tender was examined and scored by the TAP and they have recommended that Advance are awarded the contract for the services for an initial term of three years (from 1 October 2021) with an option to extend for a further two years (1+1) subject to the availability of external funding beyond March 2025. The moderated tender score was 79.7/100 (30/30 price and 49.7/70 quality).

Summary of Scores - Lot 2

No	Question	Weighting	Weighted Score
1	Service Model	7.00	5.60
2	Risk Management	3.50	2.80

No	Question	Weighting	Weighted Score
3	Working with Survivors with Additional Needs	7.00	5.60
4	Working with Young People	7.00	4.20
5	Partnership	10.50	8.40
6	Engaging Service Users	3.50	2.10
7	Flexible Delivery	3.50	1.40
8	Staffing and Finance	14.00	11.20
9	Performance Management	3.50	2.10
10	Implementation	5.50	3.30
11	Social Value	5.00	3.00
	Quality	70.00	49.70
	Price	30.00	30.00
	Total	100.00	79.70

7. Advance lead the Angelou partnership which also include the below services which will be subcontracted as part of the Integrated Support Service.
- Women and Girls Network – Young women’s specialism
 - Solace Women’s Aid – Sexual violence specialism
 - IKWRO – BAME and harmful practices specialisms
 - Al-Hasaniya – BAME and harmful practices specialisms
 - Galop – LGBT specialism
 - Woman’s Trust – Counselling specialism
 - Hestia – Group work specialism
 - Richmond Fellowship – Perpetrator specialism
 - Standing Together – Coordination specialism

Reasons for Decision

8. On 3 February 2020, Business Case & Procurement Strategy for the procurement of Violence Against Women & Girls services Cabinet approved the business case and procurement strategy for the Integrated Support Service and Coordination Service contracts.
9. Provision of services is a critical component of the Council’s response to victims of violence against women and girls. The procurement and delivery of these contracts enables the council to address its strategic and operational priorities around VAWG, crime and disorder, safeguarding and public health.

Equality Implications

10. An equalities impact assessment was completed whilst preparing the procurement strategy and has been reviewed following the completion of the tender process.
11. There are no direct negative equality implications, under the Equality Act 2010, for those service users from groups with certain protected characteristics by the

approval of recommended options outlined in this paper. A positive impact on certain groups with protected characteristics is anticipated by the commissioning / re-commissioning for this service supporting vulnerable residents.

12. The updated Equality Impact Assessment is detailed in appendix 1.
13. Consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders including service users, local authority partners and service providers, as well as independent evaluation of the current services.

Risk Management Implications

14. The report recommends the award of contracts to two providers following a competitive process, for services which are a critical component of the Council's response to victims of violence against women and girls. The procurement exercise undertaken was in line with the Council's objective of being Ruthlessly Financially Efficient.

Implications verified by: David Hughes, Director of Audit, Fraud, Risk and Insurance, tel: 07817 507 695

Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications

15. This award is to a partnership of ten local charities, and provision of this service is not expected to have a significant climate impact. Meetings are primarily conducted remotely, and staff travel is not part of service delivery. It is delivered online and in person onsite, is based within the borough, and is accessible to all by foot, bike, or public transport, including for disabled people. Services make use of products and resources that are re-used, recycled, or renewable.
16. In mobilising the contract, the council will work with the charities to explore opportunities to maximise sustainable practices, such as energy efficiency measures, use of renewable energy, reused and reconditioned equipment, and reusable and recycled materials.

Implications verified by: Jim Cunningham, Climate Policy & Strategy Lead, tel: 07468 365829

Procurement implications

17. The procurement exercise was administrated by Westminster City Council on Capital-E-Sourcing (Prj_WCC_16620). The results of the evaluation process are set out in Appendix 2 and have been verified on the e-tendering system by Felicity Charles on 23 July 2021.

Local Economy and Social Value

18. This procurement commenced before the changes came into in place for H&F's Social Value Strategy (May 2020). The procurement was undertaken in accordance with the administrating borough's contract standing orders, so the procurement strategy was complied with.
19. The successful tenderers, Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse and the Advance are local Hammersmith & Fulham organisations who are led by and

for the communities they serve. Advance is the lead service for the Angelou Partnership and the sub-contracted partners are local grassroots organisations, including IKWRO, Women and Girls Network and Woman's Trust, which have also originated and continue to operate locally in Hammersmith & Fulham.

20. Staff reflect the diverse H&F communities they support, promoting recruitment of local people. For examples, Advance's Chief Executive, some of its trustees and frontline staff are all residents. The agencies support residents who have used their services to enable them to become volunteers, mentors and staff.

Implications completed by: Ilaria Agueci, Social Value Officer, Tel 0777 667 2878

21. Consultation

22. This strategy is informed by consultation with key stakeholders including service users, local authority partners and service providers, as well as independent evaluation of the current services.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 (Exempt) – Results of Tender Assessment Panel