

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report of: Councillor Larry Culhane, Cabinet Member for Children and Education

Date: 19/12/2021

Subject: Early Help Contract Awards

Report author: Lesley Bell, Head of Programmes, Children's Services

Responsible Director: Jacqui McShannon, Director of Children's Services

SUMMARY

This report seeks a 14-month direct award (1/2/22- 31/03/23) of contracts to eight providers currently under the Family Support Services (FSS) Framework (outlined in **Table 1**), with the authority to issue a two-months extension until 31st May 2023. These contracts provide universal and specialist services to children and young people and their families including, children's centre provision, youth clubs, mentoring support and holiday clubs.

A paper was approved at Cabinet on 6th July 2020 delegating authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the lead member to approve future delivery subject to delivering savings across the early help, children's centre and youth services budget for the financial year 2021/22. This paper seeks approval to award these contracts from 1st February 2022 for a period of 14 months whilst officers work to recommission services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve the direct award of the call-off contracts under the Family Support Services (FSS) Framework outlined in Table 1 below for a period of 14 months from 1st February 2022 until 31st March 2023, with the authority to issue a two-months extension until 31st May 2023 at a total cost of £1,692,734.

Table 1: Direct Award Contracts

| Providers | Contract Value (16- months) | Services provided |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Urban Partnership Group (UPG) | £902,400 | Children's Centre and Youth Provision |
| Action on Disability | £116,000 | Specialist youth provision |
| Brunswick Club | £59,533 | Youth Club |
| Harrow Club | £178,600 | Youth Clubs in: White City, Sands End & Old Oak |
| London Sports Trust | £62,624 | Youth Club |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|
| Let Me Play (LMP) | £186,120 | Holiday clubs for: Arts & Fashion, Sports & Fitness and Music & Performing Arts |
| Ray's Playhouse | £24,851 | Stay and Play Children's Centre Services |
| Active Successful Engagement (ASE) | £162,605 | Targeted 1-2-1 mentoring services |

Wards Affected: All

| Our Values | Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values |
|--|---|
| Building shared prosperity | Working with and funding our Voluntary Community Sector to deliver proactive services for better outcomes for our residents. |
| Creating a compassionate council | Ensuring universal services including youth clubs and children's centres are available and accessible for all our residents. |
| Being ruthlessly financially efficient | Ensuring our early help and youth services spend are within the approved budget and prevented continued overspend adding pressure to the council. |
| Taking pride in H&F | Being proud of our investment in the community and improving the outcomes of our young people and their families. |

Financial Impact

The total cost to extend the contracts detailed in Table 1 from 1st February 2022 to 31st May 2023 is £1,692,733. This extension goes across 3 financial years which is broken down by cost as follows:

2021/22 £211,592
2022/23 £1,269,550
2023/24 £211,592

The 2021/22 approved budget for these contracts is £1,269,550. Agreement to extend these contracts into 2023/24 will commit the council to expenditure at the current budgeted level to 31st May 2023.

**Family Support Budget
Reconciliation**

**broken down between
financial years**

| | <u>budget</u> <u>2021/22</u> | <u>proposed</u> <u>annual spend</u> <u>2022/23</u> | <u>spend for 16</u> <u>months (</u> <u>1/2/22 -</u> <u>31/5/23</u> | <u>2021/22</u> | <u>2022/23</u> | <u>2023/24</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|--|---|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| <u>Providers</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>UPG - Children's Centre</u> <u>Provision</u> | <u>677,000</u> | <u>676,800</u> | <u>902,400</u> | <u>112,800</u> | <u>676,800</u> | <u>112,800</u> |
| <u>Ray's Playhouse -</u> <u>Children's Centre</u> <u>Provision</u> | <u>19,000</u> | <u>18,638</u> | <u>24,851</u> | <u>3,106</u> | <u>18,638</u> | <u>3,106</u> |
| <u>Harrow Club - Youth</u> <u>Club</u> | <u>134,000</u> | <u>133,950</u> | <u>178,600</u> | <u>22,325</u> | <u>133,950</u> | <u>22,325</u> |
| <u>Brunswick Club - Youth</u> <u>Club</u> | <u>45,000</u> | <u>44,650</u> | <u>59,533</u> | <u>7,442</u> | <u>44,650</u> | <u>7,442</u> |
| <u>London Sports Trust -</u> <u>Youth Club</u> | <u>47,000</u> | <u>46,968</u> | <u>62,624</u> | <u>7,828</u> | <u>46,968</u> | <u>7,828</u> |
| <u>AOD - Youth and</u> <u>Holiday Club</u> | <u>87,000</u> | <u>87,000</u> | <u>116,000</u> | <u>14,500</u> | <u>87,000</u> | <u>14,500</u> |
| <u>LMP - Holiday Club</u> | <u>140,000</u> | <u>139,590</u> | <u>186,120</u> | <u>23,265</u> | <u>139,590</u> | <u>23,265</u> |
| <u>ASE - Mentoring</u> | <u>122,000</u> | <u>121,954</u> | <u>162,605</u> | <u>20,326</u> | <u>121,954</u> | <u>20,326</u> |
| <u>Contracts to be</u> <u>extended</u> | <u>1,271,000</u> | <u>1,269,550</u> | <u>1,692,733</u> | <u>211,592</u> | <u>1,269,550</u> | <u>211,592</u> |
| <u>other Early Help</u> <u>expenditure</u> | <u>660,600</u> | | | | | |
| <u>total Family Support</u> <u>Budget 2021/22</u> | <u>1,931,600</u> | | | | | |

Legal Implications

Direct Award of Contracts

This report recommends that the contracts set out in Table 1 are awarded for a period of 14 months from the 1st February 2022 until 31st March 2023, with the possibility of two- months extension.

The value of each direct award for all the contracts, except the one to Urban Partnership Group, is below the threshold for social and other specific services under the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) which is currently £663,540. Therefore the PCR do not apply in full. The PCR do apply to the Urban Partnership Group direct one but as this will be a call off from a Framework it will comply with the PCR.

The Council must publish a contract award notice on Contracts Finder containing at least the name of the contractor, the date on which the contract was entered into, the value of the contract and whether the contractor is an SME or BSCE (reg.112(1) PCR).

Under the Contract Standing Orders (CSOs), the proposed direct award contracts to Ray's Playhouse, Brunswick Club, Harrow Club (3 contracts), Let me play (3 contracts) and London Sports Trust are all individually considered low value contracts and should therefore comply with competition and advertising requirements

set out in CSO 9.1. The decision maker should satisfy themselves that the process followed for this award ensures value for money for this project.

Under the Contract Standing Orders (CSOs), the proposed direct award contracts to Active Successful Engagement and Action on Disability are all individually considered medium value contracts and should therefore comply with competition and advertising requirements set out in CSO 13.1. The decision maker should satisfy themselves that the process followed for this award ensures value for money for this project.

Under the Contract Standing Orders (CSOs), the proposed direct award contracts to Urban Partnership Group is considered a high value contracts and should therefore comply with competition and advertising requirements set out in CSO 19.1. The decision maker should satisfy themselves that the process followed for this award ensures value for money for this project.

All contracts above £100,000 must be submitted to the Contracts Assurance Board before being submitted for approval to the decision maker.

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DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. The Family Support Services Framework includes contracts for children's centre and youth contract provision which commenced in April 2018 with the intention of the contracts on the framework novating across to FSS Local Authority Trading Company (LATC). The novation of these contracts did not happen, and the contracts sit within CHS Early Help.

2. This provision provides important early intervention support to our children and young people and their families. These services have supported the council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing support to our key worker and vulnerable children holiday provision and youth services. By awarding contracts on the FSS framework (**Table 1**) there is continued provision for the next 14 months, while the council reviews the services as part of the wider Early Help offer in light of Early Help services previously delivered by FSS LATC returning in-house, accounting for any changes in demand and considering the long-term impact of the pandemic.
3. In 2020/21 savings were agreed with providers enabling continued provision with efficiencies supporting delivery within the approved budget. Further savings with a number of providers have been agreed for 2021/22. The proposed spend for the early help budget is outlined in the exempt **Table 2**. The direct award of contracts on the FSS framework, outlined in **Table 1** form part of the Early Help spend.
4. There are 5 providers on the Framework who meet the criteria for Social Value, these are Urban Partnership Group, Harrow Club, Let Me Play, Active Successful Engagement and Action on Disability. These providers have all committed to delivering a minimum of 10% Social Value and have provided evidence of this delivery. These providers are based in H&F, and all employ staff from the local area, they also contribute voluntary hours supporting initiatives in the community. The Local Authority will continue to work closely with providers to ensure Social Value delivery.

5. **Social Value commitments:**

| Provider | Contract value (16-months) | Social Value | Description |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Urban Partnership Group | £902,400 | 22.60% | Retention of 5 staff from borough. |
| Active Successful Engagement | £162,605 | 35.75% | Retention of 1.5 staff from borough. |
| Action on Disability | £116,000 | 50.42% | Retention of 1.5 staff from borough. |
| Let Me Play | £186,120 | 20.95% | Retention of 1 Programme Coordinator from borough. |
| Harrow Club | £178,600 | 32.75% | Retention of 1.5 staff from borough. |

6. **Option 1: to direct award each of the call-off contracts with those providers, as outlined in Table 1:** These extensions and awards will ensure continuity of this provision for 2022/23 whilst contributing to the savings required, ensuring we continued to deliver services within the approved budget. This will also give providers assurance to enable them to continue

delivery of the service provision until March 2023. **This is the recommended option.**

7. **Option 2: Do not award contracts set out in Table 1:** Any delays to formalising the awards of the contracts will result in contracts and services ceasing effective 1st February 2022. There is insufficient time to review and undertake a procurement process for these services to ensure continuity for our residents. This option will create further uncertainty for our local providers and disrupt services for residents. **We do not recommend this option.**

Risk Management Implications

8. All services delivered on behalf of the Council to residents must give regard to providing a Covid-19 safe environment; this means that service sector, Health and Safety Executive, HM Government and Public Health guidelines are implemented and followed. Providers should consider the ongoing Public Health concerns about Covid-19 and implement control plans should an Outbreak occur within the service. Services provided as presented in the report contribute positively to the Covid-19 recovery by providing much needed face to face contact, social interaction and local employment opportunities. Years of austerity imposed by the Government coupled with the financial impact of managing the local impact of Covid-19 means that the Council is operating with increased financial pressures that determine how services are to be delivered within the budgets available. The report recommends the contracts be extended for a period to allow recommissioning to be progressed, leading to a tender exercise being undertaken, in line with the objective of being ruthlessly financially efficient.

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

Local Economy and Social Value

9. This report seeks approval to directly award five contracts for the duration of 14 months over the value of £100k, to which 10% social value minimum requirement applies. The commissioner engaged with suppliers, and they all committed to retain at least one staff member for the duration of the contract. All 5 suppliers committed to over 10% social value minimum requirement (par.5).
10. The Commissioner will monitor the delivery of social value activities within the department as part of their contract management responsibility. Social Value activities will have to be evidenced and approved by the contract manager. Delivered activities will have to be reported to the Social Value Officer by the end of the financial year, so that these activities can be included as part of the Council's wider social value report.
11. It is advisable the Commissioner will work closely with Legal Services to ensure appropriate social value clauses are included in the contract, so that

the Council can enforce its right to compensation if social value commitments are not delivered.

*Implications to be verified/completed by: Ilaria Agueci, Social Value Officer
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**LIST OF APPENDICES:
NONE**