

NOT PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE

NON-KEY DECISION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Decision title: Peninsula Fostering Framework Tender

Officer making decision: Julian Wooster, Director of Children's Services

Author Contact Details: Louise Palmer, Strategic Commissioner, Tel. 07818 529158

Date of Decision: 14th Sept 2017

Details of the decision:

That the Director of Children's Services authorises Somerset to take part in the South West Peninsula framework tender for independent fostering placements, to be issued in October 2017. The framework would commence on 1st April 2018 for a period of 48 months.

Reasons for the decision:

Since 2006 the council has collaborated with the Peninsula to purchase fostering placements from the independent sector. The current framework has been extended by the Peninsula for 12 months and expires on 31st March 2018.

Without a framework in place, future purchases after 31st March 2018 are likely to be made as spot purchases with individual contracts. This is a risk at the point of purchase, when we will rely on our placements team to negotiate a good price.

The proposed framework will increase the supply of high quality, locally available placements in a family setting. In order to achieve positive outcomes for vulnerable children and young people, there is a focus on supporting placement stability and permanence for children and young people. The framework agreement will also aim to achieve improved value for money for placing authorities through greater transparency of pricing and competition through call-off.

Background to the decision:

The Peninsula Commissioning and Procurement Partnership (PCPP) is a longstanding collaboration between Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council and Somerset County Council. Devon County Council (DCC) is leading the joint procurement for Peninsula Fostering in Independent Fostering Agency Placements.

The aim of the tender is to award 'Lots' for different levels of foster care, each for a duration of four years. (1st April 2018- 31st March 2022). Each Framework is split into three Geographical areas. Bidders can bid for any one or all Lots. The aim of the Procurement process is to create approved ranking lists for each Lot and geographical area.

The timetable for the framework tender is as follows:

Date	Stage
25/09/17	Dispatch of the OJEU Contract Notice by DCC. Procurement Documents made available over the internet.
12:00 on 26/10/2017	Deadline for return of Bids (to include the SQ and ITT responses)
26/10/2017-05/02/2018	Evaluation of Bids and recommendation for the successful Bidders.
03/11/2017-05/02/18	Completion of PCPP approval and award decision processes.
05/02/2018	Notification by DCC of the award decision, debriefing unsuccessful Bidders and commencement of the standstill period.
16/02/2018	Expiry of standstill period.
16/02/2018	Appointment of the successful Bidders, award of the Contract
19/02/18 – 31/03/18	Transfer of current IPAs
01/04/2018	Service delivery commences

Members consulted; members informed :	Not considered necessary
Officer consultations completed:	Yes
Senior (including statutory) officer sign off completed	Yes
Public / other consultations undertaken	Not considered necessary
Financial, Legal, HR, Risk, Due regard implications considered	Yes

Background papers:

Somerset Sufficiency Statement for Children Looked After and Care Leavers 2016-2019

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/childrens-services/care-and-chaperoning/children-in-care/>

The below has been completed:	Name(s)	Date
Relevant local County Councillors consulted where decision directly affects their Division	N/A	
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) consulted (if applicable)	N/A	
Opposition Spokesperson informed (if applicable)	N/A	
Chairman of relevant Scrutiny informed (if applicable).	N/A	

Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision, have considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses (where applicable) and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:



Name: Julian Wooster

Post: Director of Children's Services

Date: 16th September 2017.

Equality Impact Assessment Form and Action Table 2015
 (Expand the boxes as appropriate, please see guidance
 (www.somerset.gov.uk/impactassessment) to assist with completion)

"I shall try to explain what "due regard" means and how the courts interpret it. The courts have made it clear that having due regard is **more than having a cursory glance** at a document before arriving at a preconceived conclusion. Due regard requires public authorities, in formulating a policy, to give equality considerations the weight which is **proportionate in the circumstances**, given the potential impact of the policy on equality. It is not a question of box-ticking; it requires the equality impact to be **considered rigorously and with an open mind.**"

Baroness Thornton, March 2010

What are you completing the Impact Assessment on (which policy, service, MTFP reference, cluster etc)?

Peninsula Fostering Framework Tender

Version

1

Date

7th Sept 2017

Section 1 – Description of what is being impact assessed

The council is taking a decision to take part in the South West Peninsula framework tender for independent fostering placements. The assessment is on the ITT which describes the service being purchased, and the questions assessing bidder's suitability to provide the service

Section 2A – People or communities that are targeted or could be affected (taking particular note of the Protected Characteristic listed in action table)

The tender exercise is for a framework for independent fostering providers. People who are affected by this are children in the care of Somerset County Council.

Section 2B – People who are delivering the policy or service

The tender exercise is being led by Devon County Council on behalf of the peninsula authorities. The service will be delivered by a range of fostering providers selected through the tendering process.

Section 3 – Evidence and data used for the assessment (Attach documents where appropriate)

Those placed in Peninsula placements are broadly aged 10-17, with the majority of young people aged 13-16, although placements are also offered for those aged under 10 years of age. This is currently appropriate, and will continue into the next fostering framework with no change and no adverse effects are expected.

Section 4 – Conclusions drawn about the equalities impact (positive or negative) of the proposed change or new service/policy (Please use **prompt sheet** in the guidance for help with what to consider):

Many children placed will have a Special Educational Need (SEN) or disability. These needs are recorded and explored, and placements are identified in order to meet these needs. This will not change in the new framework and no adverse effects are expected.

Any needs related to faith, religion, belief, culture or heritage are recorded and explored by the social worker, and these are represented when searching for a foster carer on the

framework. The framework's ability to respond to this is not expected to change and no adverse effects are expected.

Any needs related to gender or sexuality, including gender reassignment and transgender needs, are recorded and explored by the social worker, and these are represented when searching for a foster carer on the framework. The framework's ability to respond to this is not expected to change and no adverse effects are expected.

The ITT requires providers to comply with equality legislation as pass/fail criteria, which includes four questions such as asking whether the organisation has had a complaint upheld following an investigation by the quality and human rights commission.

Payment to foster care agencies on the framework is only made on the basis of placements made. It is the responsibility of the council to ensure placements are made which appropriately meet the needs of the child or young person. Therefore it is in provider's interests to ensure they have carers available to match the needs of the child.

If you have identified any negative impacts you will need to consider how these can be mitigated to either reduce or remove them. In the table below let us know what mitigation you will take. (Please add rows where needed)			
Identified issue drawn from your conclusions	Actions needed – can you mitigate the impacts? If you can how will you mitigate the impacts?	Who is responsible for the actions? When will the action be completed?	How will it be monitored? What is the expected outcome from the action?
Age			
Disability			
Gender Reassignment			
Marriage and Civil Partnership			
Pregnancy and Maternity			
Race (including ethnicity or national origin, colour, nationality and Gypsies and Travellers)			
Religion and Belief			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			
Other (including caring responsibilities, rurality, low income, Military Status etc)			

Section 6 - How will the assessment, consultation and outcomes be published and communicated? E.g. reflected in final strategy, published. What steps are in place to review the Impact Assessment	
Completed by:	Louise Palmer
Date	7 th Sept 2017
Signed off by:	Tom Rutland
Date	15 th Sept 2017
Compliance sign off Date	15 th Sept 2017
To be reviewed by: (officer name)	
Review date:	