

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 19 March, 2018**

### **Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure**

### **Providing Family Support Services**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek authority to tender contracts relating to the provision of Direct Family Support Services.

#### **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet authorises the Director of Social Services and the Head of Finance / Section 151 Officer (in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure, the Leader and the Deputy Leader) to:
  - commence tendering procedures for the services outlined in this report; and
  - accept and award tenders for these services in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.
2. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to agree the terms of and execute contracts with the successful providers.

#### **Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 1&2 To ensure that the Council:
- provides Family Support Services in a cost effective way and meets the assessed needs of service users;
  - fulfils the responsibilities set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and Welsh Government Guidance associated with the Edge of Care grant funding;
  - meets the requirements of its Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders.

#### **Background**

2. There are currently a number of letters of understanding for the provision of family support services, namely a respite service and a short breaks and leisure service for children with disabilities, a contact service for children looked after, a direct family support service and a crisis intervention and rehabilitation service (edge of care). The Council's procurement strategy and financial regulations require that services of

this value be subject to a competitive process. This will ensure we identify providers who will deliver quality services whilst ensuring best value.

3. The Corporate Strategy for Children who need Care and Support was endorsed by Cabinet in September 2016. This Strategy sets out how the whole Council is going to work collaboratively to improve the general well-being of children and young people who, for whatever reason, need care and support.
4. The key objectives and principles of the Strategy are:
  - To support families to stay together and reduce the need for children to be looked after, by focusing on services which intervene early and prevent greater need arising across all provision.
  - To manage risk confidently and provide support at the 'edge of care' by making sure that need is accurately assessed, resulting in the right children being accommodated at the right time. This includes supporting families to avoid children becoming accommodated unnecessarily and by making private arrangements within their wider family networks.
5. The new contracts set out below will assist the Council in meeting the key objectives and principles within the Corporate Strategy for Children who need Care and Support. The current review of all working arrangements between the Council and other agencies will ensure that every service will be provided through a robust contract that fully reflects the responsibilities of the Council and the provider.

### **Relevant Issues and Options**

6. As part of the current tendering exercise, we have reviewed the levels of need and combined the existing number of services into three new family support bands. There will be three new contracts namely:
  - Families with Additional Needs - this service will include respite provision at our existing Ty Robin site and a registered domiciliary service.
  - Contact Service - this service will meet all contact requirements for children looked after and will be both centre and community based.
  - Direct Family Support Service - this service will include a tiered approach to delivering support to families. This service will encompass an early intervention and an edge of care approach. The service will work with families with children of all ages and will include tailored support to families with adolescents who may be difficult to engage.
7. The new contracts for these services will be in place by July 2018. The Authority's Contract Standing Orders require that contracts with an estimated value of £75,000 or higher should be subject to an appropriate procurement process that ensures value for money, compliance with legislation governing the spending of public money and protect individuals from undue criticism or allegation of wrongdoing. The tendering of Family Support Services will be designed to ensure that these three principles are fulfilled.
8. The contract will be split in to three Lots as per the above. Potential providers will be able to submit tenders for between 1 and 3 Lots. The price submission will require providers to submit a price for each Lot individually (the standard price); in addition they will need to evidence economies of scale should they be tendering for more than one lot. However, initial evaluations of price will be based upon the standard price in

order to ensure equality within the evaluation process. The evaluation criteria for the contract are 70% quality and 30% price.

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment and Climate Change, if appropriate)**

9. The service is currently and will continue to be funded from within the Social Services budget.
10. The process of tendering any service will be undertaken by staff within the Directorate, making appropriate use of corporate expertise and processes in areas such as procurement, finance and HR.

### **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

11. It will be necessary for contracts to be executed by the Head of Legal Services with the successful providers.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

12. There are no crime and disorder implications as a direct result of this report.

### **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

13. All tendering processes will be open to organisations from the independent and third sector.

### **Corporate/Service Objectives**

14. Key objectives of the Council addressed by this report are:
  - "To make the Vale a safe and healthy place in which individuals, children and families can live their lives to the full";
  - "To manage the Council's workforce, money and assets efficiently and effectively in order to maximise its ability to achieve its service aims".

### **Policy Framework and Budget**

15. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

### **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

16. Service users and representative organisations will be included as appropriate as part of the procurement process and in future service reviews.

### **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

17. Healthy Living and Social Care

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Contact Officer**

Rachel Evans

## **Officers Consulted**

Operational Manager - Contracting and Finance, Resource Management and Safeguarding

Operational Managers - Children and Young People Services

## **Responsible Officer:**

Lance Carver, Director of Social Services