

Delegated Officer Report

Decision Maker:	Gerard Jones
Date of Decision:	9 September 2020
Subject:	Registration of Gemini House on to STAR's Flexible Procurement System (FPS) for Rochdale.
Report Author:	Shirley Woods-Gallagher, AD Commissioning & Partnerships
Ward (s):	All

Reason for the decision:

The service which Gemini House provides is essential to ensuring, wherever possible and appropriate, children with disabilities remain at home by supporting both the children and parents at the edge of care. It also performs an integral function for those children with disabilities which are looked after, as it provides relief and support which has a stabilising effect on placements.

Rochdale Council currently purchase overnight short breaks for some of their disabled children from Gemini House in Oldham – this is currently a spot purchase arrangement, however, originally this was funded on a 50-50 basis between the two authorities.

Rochdale Commissioning have made partners including Oldham aware that they will be inviting Short Breaks providers to apply to become a part of the Flexible Procurement System Framework (FPS). Tenders will be submitted for consideration via the Chest and subsequently evaluated by a panel.

Background

For context, STAR Procurement is a partnership made up of Rochdale, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford LAS and Tameside & Glossop and Trafford CCGs. The primary aim of STAR is to provide a procurement and consultancy service. The Flexible Procurement System (FPS) will be a Matrix of approved providers who have met set quality standards and can therefore be approached to provide Short Breaks to meet the needs of individual families, children & young people.

Potential providers applications will be assessed and evaluated by a panel, successful applicants will be added to the framework. Successful providers will be enabled to deliver contracts and services to any Greater Manchester local authorities that are part of the FPS. In this case this would primarily be for Rochdale in the first instance.

For background information Gemini House is a six bedded residential home that provides overnight short break stays for children and young people aged 6 to 18. The service can accommodate children with a range of complex physical health needs, moderate to severe learning disabilities, sensory impairments and autistic spectrum condition. The service is a registered children's home and is available to families who live in Oldham and Rochdale.

Rochdale were due to begin the exercise to add all providers of Short Breaks onto their FPS in May 2020; however, it was delayed by Rochdale due to COVID-19. The FPS will be reopening in August and Rochdale have invited Gemini House to apply to be an approved provider as part of this approach.

The Start Well Commissioning Team are working closely with the in-house Aftercare team to discuss and plan for the introduction of the FPS and will lead on completion of the application if this is agreed by DMT.

For information, since January 2019 Rochdale have procured 541 beds at a cost of £550.00 per night. For the calendar year of 2019, Rochdale's bed usage made up 43% of all bed

usage at Gemini House. As part of the application to be added to the FPS, we are working closely with the management team at Gemini House, Finance and Procurement to ensure that the true full cost amount is realistic and reflects the true cost and can be re-charged to Rochdale going forward.

The timetable for the process is as follows:

- 14th August - Invites for submissions were sent to providers via The Chest. This included Oldham for Gemini House
- 7th September – deadline for any clarification questions to be submitted via The Chest.
- 14th September – deadline for applications to become part of the FPS to be submitted by 12 noon.

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

Option 1

To complete the application to become a member of the Flexible Procurement System which will allow Rochdale to continue to procure beds from Gemini House. Completing this process will allow Oldham to commence offering services and bid for contracts with the following GM authorities; Tameside, Trafford, Stockport and Rochdale. The Startwell Commissioning Team will work collaboratively with the Short Breaks Service to complete this work.

Option 2

To not complete the registration process and end the current procurement arrangements between Rochdale Council and Gemini House. This could have financial implications for Oldham and support issues for Rochdale. It is likely Rochdale and any other potential LAs who are part of the FPS will be unable to 'purchase' provision at Gemini House if they are not an approved provider. This could have financial implications for the provision

Recommendation(s):

Option 1

To complete the application to become a member of the Flexible Procurement System which will allow Rochdale to continue to procure beds from Gemini House. Completing this process will allow Oldham to commence offering services and bid for contracts with the following GM authorities; Tameside, Trafford, Stockport and Rochdale. The Startwell Commissioning Team will work collaboratively with the Short Breaks Service to complete this work.

As part of the application to be added to the FPS, we will work closely with the service area and finance colleagues to review the figures to ensure costs are realistic and reflect all associated costs of support and provision.

Implications:

*What are the **financial** implications?*

The proposal to become a member of the Flexible Procurement System does not have a direct financial implication, it should however be noted that there remains an income target of £470k, based on the contribution Rochdale historically made to the shared service. Following withdrawal from the agreement income continued to be received from spot purchasing in 2019/20 as referred to earlier in the report. Partly as a result of the initiatives described in this report and partly due to COVID no income has currently been received in 2020/21, this position has been factored into the latest monitoring which shows an overspend for Children's Services, partaking in the scheme will at least enable the Authority to be in the market to sell spare capacity outside of the Borough and maximise the opportunity to mitigate the shortfall identified. **Andy Cooper**

*What are the **legal** implications?*

There are no significant implications for the Council in registering an interest to participate in a procurement exercise for residential short break services run by STaR on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council. However, Oldham Council needs to confirm that the shared services agreement with Rochdale Borough Council dated 2nd March 2016 in has been

formally terminated. **Elizabeth Cunningham-Doyle**

What are the **procurement** implications?

Commercial Unit accept the rationale on the grounds there are no significant implications for the Council in registering an interest to participate in an FPS as Star on behalf of Rochdale Borough council to continue to procure beds from Gemini House. this process will allow Oldham to commence offering services with other GM authorities. as details of which are contained within this report. On this basis, and in accordance with legal advice Commercial Unit acknowledges the requirement. **Mohammad Sharif**

Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached or not required because (please give reason)

N/A

What are the **property** implications?

None

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Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?

Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?

Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?

No

List of Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

Title	Available from
None	

Report Author Sign-off:	
Date: 9 September 2020	Shirley Woods-Gallagher, AD Commissioning & Partnerships

Please list and attach any appendices: -

Appendix number or letter	Description
N/A	

In consultation with Managing Director of CYP



Signed:

Date: 9 September 2020