



Oldham
Council

Report to CABINET

Positive Steps Contract Extension for Targeted Youth Support lots 2 and 3.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Eddie Moores, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

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17th October 2022

Reason for Decision

Permission is sought from Cabinet to approve the utilisation of Regulation 72(1)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to enable a modification to the term of the existing contracts for Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Lots 2 and 3 currently held by Positive Steps to allow for a further extension of 12 months from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024. This approach, if approved, would complement and feed into the proposed early help, early intervention work, build on integrated commissioning intentions and the development of a range of delivery options.

Recommendations

The recommended option is that Cabinet approves the utilisation of Regulation 72(1)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to enable a modification to the term of the existing contracts for Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Lots 2 and 3 currently held by Positive Steps to allow for a further extension of 12 months from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024.

Positive Steps Contract Extension for Targeted Youth Support lots 2 and 3.

1 Background

Positive Steps currently hold two contracts within the Targeted Youth Support (TYS) service offer. Both contracts were awarded from 1 April 2020 for an initial period of two years up until 31 March 2022 with an option to extend for up to a maximum period of a further twelve months to 31 March 2023.

The contracts within scope of this report are as follows:

- TYS lot 2 – youth justice board offer with an annual funding envelope representing the Youth Justice Grant
- TYS lot 3 – young carers, targeted impartial information and careers advice and missing return home interviews with an annual funding envelope. This contract already has an identified saving in place from 1st April 2023..

An extension to the existing contracts is now being sought for a period of twelve months up until 31 March 2024 under corporate exemption rules. This would ensure future options for delivery of services within scope are co-terminus with wider directorate strategic proposals.

Positive Steps are in the process of recruiting a new Chief Executive as the current post holder is retiring an extension would enable us to build a relationship with the new post holder and determine the direction of travel. It is also recognised that Positive Steps are an important strategic partner within Oldham, a full tender process at this time may have a destabilising effect on the provider.

2 Current Position

The Council currently commissions Positive Steps to deliver a range of services to support Oldham's young people under the overarching banner of Targeted Youth Services. These include support services for young carers; delivery of missing from home return interviews; careers information advice and guidance as well as the Council's Youth Justice Service.

The current contracts end on 31 March 2023.

It is proposed that within the proposed extension period a full options appraisal is undertaken to explore alternative delivery methods including consideration of bringing or returning elements in-house. The exercise would also compliment the proposed early help and early intervention work and build on integrated commissioning intentions.

The Council would be able to demonstrate services achieve outcomes, contribute to communities and prevention agendas ensuring all young people fulfil their full potential and aspirations.

The extension would allow service area leads and partners to work together to identify all other possible options of service delivery including a fully commissioned tendering process to the open market or by bringing some or all of the service area elements in-house in a planned and coherent manner. This would align with the place-based model within Oldham ensuring high quality services are available at a time and place to suit children, young people and families/carers needs. This would also enable dialogue with the current provider to explore alternative delivery models both within the remaining

contract period and beyond with a particular focus on the targeted impartial careers guidance element, NEET and Not Known. A revised specification for Lot 3 to reflect areas for improved performance and financial savings will be agreed as part of the extension offer

Governance arrangements will be established within the context of the wider piece of work outlined above to ensure a holistic approach to service delivery.

3 **Options/Alternatives**

Option One:

TYS Lots 2 and 3 contracts are modified and extended for a period of twelve months up until 31 March 2024.

Option Two:

Services are tendered via The Chest. There is insufficient time for a full tendering exercise and options appraisal within the development of the wider model.

Option Three:

Services are delivered in-house from 1 April 2024. TUPE implications would need to be considered as part of this arrangement and there is insufficient time to manage this following completion of an options appraisal.

4 **Preferred Option**

Option One:

TYS Lots 2 and 3 contracts are modified and extended for a period of twelve months up until 31 March 2024.

5 **Consultation**

Consultations will be undertaken with young people and key stakeholders including schools as part of the development process and findings will form part of future delivery options

6 **Financial Implications**

Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

7 **Legal Services Comments**

Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

The current contract is based on the co-operative agenda of the Council and any future commissioning intentions will also reflect these principles.

9 Human Resources Comments

Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

10 Risk Assessments

N/A

11 IT Implications

N/A

12 Property Implications

Non for the Council. The provider will have their own property arrangements from which to deliver services.

13 Procurement Implications

Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

There are no implications for these services. The successful provider will be expected to adhere to all Oldham's terms and conditions as outlined in the standard contract.

15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

The current contract delivers youth Justice Board statutory responsibilities on behalf of the council including community and prevention-based work.

16 Implications for Children and Young People

Statutory services for children and young people will continue from 1 April 2023 and children and young people will be involved in the development of any future commissioning intentions.

17 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

A stage one EIA was completed as part of the original tender. Further evaluation of the impact of these services will be carried out as part of the development of future commissioning intentions.

18 Key Decision

Yes

19 Key Decision Reference

CHS – 10 -22

20 **Background Papers**

Non

21 **Appendices**

Non