

## **Report to CABINET**

### **Targeted Impartial Information Advice and Guidance (TIIAG), Return Home from Missing Interviews and Young Carers – retender of services from 1 April 2025**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr. Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**Officer Contact:** Gerard Jones, Managing Director Children and Young People (DCS)

**Report Author:**

Laura Farnworth, Children's Commissioning Strategic Manager

**Cabinet Date: 17 June 24**

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#### **Reason for Decision**

Targeted Youth Support (TYS) services in Oldham are currently delivered by Positive Steps.

Services in scope are:

TIIAG (Targeted Impartial, Independent Advice and Guidance (TIIAG) for targeted groups including those not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) up to age 18, Young Carers and Missing from Home or Care Return Home Interviews.

This contract is due to cease on 31 March 2025 with no further option to extend under Corporate Procurement Rules.

#### **Recommendations**

The recommendation is that all elements of the contract are re-tendered through an open, robust, competitive commissioning and procurement process via The Chest.

We are also seeking approval to delegate contract award decision making responsibilities to the Director of Children's Services (DCS) in order for services to be delivered from 1 April 2025.

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## **Targeted Impartial Information Advice and Guidance (TIIAG), Return Home from Missing Interviews and Young Carers – Retender of services from 1 April 2025**

### **1 Background**

1.1 Targeted Youth Support (TYS) services in Oldham are currently delivered by Positive Steps.

Services in scope are:

TIIAG (Targeted Impartial, Independent Advice and Guidance (TIIAG) for targeted groups including those not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) up to age 18, Young Carers and Missing from Home or Care Return Home Interviews.

This contract is due to cease on 31 March 2025 with no further option to extend under Corporate Procurement Rules.

### **2 Current Position**

2.1 Positive Steps currently hold the contract for the delivery of a collection of statutory services which form part of Targeted Youth Services. They are:

- TIIAG
- Young Carers
- Missing from Home or Care Return Interviews

This contract includes statutory duties and therefore delivery will be required from 1 April 2025.

A project board will be established to oversee and implement arrangements. This will include the development of outcome-based service specifications. Membership of the project board will include Children's Commissioning, ICP Commissioners, Service Area Leads, Children and Young People, Parent Carer Forum, Finance, Procurement, HR and Legal. The chair of the project board will be the Head of Service for Children and Young People's Commissioning to ensure strategic oversight, integration into our transformation journey and to mitigate potential risks.

### **3 Options/Alternatives**

Options available to ensure continued delivery of statutory functions from 1 April 2025 are:

#### **3.1 Option One:**

All elements of the contract are re-tendered through an open, robust, competitive commissioning and procurement process via The Chest. Once awarded the contract would commence on 1 April 2025. A meet the market event would be held to discuss plans, gain feedback from the market and develop a service specification which would be outcome based.

We are also seeking approval for delegated contract award decision making responsibilities to be awarded to the Director of Children's Services in order for services to be delivered from 1 April 2025.

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### 3.2 **Option Two:**

The Council delivers all elements within the contract formerly known as Lot 3 internally. This model could be based across a number of service areas with appropriate resource and staff transferred under TUPE arrangements. Service specifications would be in place to ensure delivery of required outcomes.

### 3.3 **Option three:**

TIIAG including those not in education, employment, or training (NEET) up to age 18 is retendered through an open, transparent, robust, competitive procurement process.

The missing from home or care return home interviews and Young Carers offer are delivered internally as outlined in Option 2 above.

## 4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option. All elements of the contract (including UKSPF if it is available) are re-tendered through an open, robust, competitive commissioning and procurement process via The Chest. Once awarded the contract would commence on 1 April 2025. A meet the market event would be held to discuss plans, gain feedback from the market and develop a service specification which would be outcome based.

We are seeking approval for delegated contract award decision making responsibilities to be awarded to the Director of Children's Services in order for services to be delivered from 1 April 2025.

## 5 **Consultation**

5.1 Consultation will take place with service users and partners throughout the remainder of this contract.

## 6 **Financial Implications**

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

## 7 **Legal Implications**

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

## 8. **Oldham Equality Impact Assessment, including implications for Children and Young People**

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

## 9 **Key Decision**

9.1 Yes

## 10 **Key Decision Reference**

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10.1 CHS-04-24

11 **Background Papers**

11.1 None

12 **Appendices**

12.1 None