

Report to CABINET

Youth Justice Service – Retender of Service from 1 April 2025

Portfolio Holder:

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

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Cabinet Date: 17 June 2024

Reason for Decision

The Youth Justice Service (YJS) is a statutory service delivered in Oldham currently by Positive Steps. The current contract will end on 31 March 2025. There is no further provision to extend within Corporate Procurement Rules.

Recommendations

A robust, transparent procurement and commissioning process via the Chest is undertaken to recommission YJS with a new service to go live on 1 April 2025. This process would involve young people from the outset and would be led by the project board.

We are also seeking 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.

Youth Justice Service – retender of service from 1 April 2025

1 Background

- 1.1 The Youth Justice Service (YJS) is a statutory service delivered in Oldham currently by Positive Steps.

The current contract will end on 31 March 2025. There is no further provision to extend within Corporate Procurement Rules.

This report outlines a range of potential delivery models for consideration and decision

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Youth Justice Service (YJS) provides youth justice and preventative support for Oldham children, young people and families. This is a statutory responsibility which Positive Steps perform on behalf of the Local Authority.

YJS is a statutory service 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 at Assistant Director or Director level 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:

A robust, transparent procurement and commissioning process via the Chest is undertaken to recommission YJS with a new service to go live on 1 April 2025. This process would involve young people from the outset and would be led by the project board.

With this option it is recommended, in line with recent commissioning awards that the contracts be awarded for a period of five years with the option to extend for up to a further two years. This would be subject to continued annual funding from YJB being available and provider performance to meet key priorities and outcomes.

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

3.2 Option two:

The Youth Justice Service is brought in house and is delivered by Oldham Council from 1 April 2025.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option. A robust, transparent procurement and commissioning process via the Chest is undertaken to recommission YJS with a new service to go live on 1 April 2025. This process would involve young people from the outset and would be led by the project board.

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

5 **Consultation**

5.1 Consultation will be ongoing throughout the remainder of the current contract, governed through the YJS Management Board. This will include the wider partnership, young people and YJB.

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 Not required as the proposals relate to the continuation of an existing service.

9 **Key Decision**

9.1 Yes

10 **Key Decision Reference**

10.1 CHS-05-24

11 **Background Papers**

11.1 None

12 **Appendices**

12.1 None
