

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Sure Start Children's Centre Tender Award
Committee: Cabinet
Date: 29th March 2011
Cabinet Member: Cllr Mrs Watkins, Portfolio Holder, Services for children and Young People
CMT Member: Bronwen Lacey, Director of Services for Children and Young People
Author: Fiona Fleming, Commissioning Manager
Contact: Tel: 01752 307341
E mail: Fiona.fleming@plymouth.gov.uk
Ref: Contracts 10052 - 10059
Key Decision: Yes
Part: I

Executive Summary:

Sure Start Children's Centres provide integrated health, education and support services for families with children 0 – 5 years old. They were originally established to provide early intervention to families in areas of social deprivation and reduce health and education inequalities. The Childcare Act 2006 expanded the role to provide local access to service provision for all families. As part of their core offer, Children's Centres now provide a range of services, including pre and post natal care, multi- agency parenting programmes and access to affordable childcare.

Contracts for eight of these centres were due to expire at the end of March 2011. A formal tender was therefore advertised through a Restricted Procedure on 17 June 2010. Evaluation concluded on 24 February 2011.

The tender has resulted in recommended contract award value at £7,727,254 for three years, separated into eight contracts. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, the full details of the proposed contract award are included within a separate Part II Report.

Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014:

Children's Centres contribute to the delivery of the following:

Corporate Plan priority: Raising aspiration

- Children and Young People's Plan priority: Improve levels of achievement for all children and young people

Outcome in Children's Centre specification:

Improved attainment in the Early Years Foundation Stage and reduction in education inequalities, particularly through early identification of special educational needs and improved quality of learning in childcare settings.

Corporate Plan priority: Reducing inequalities

- Children and Young People's Plan priority: Tackle child poverty

Outcomes in Children's Centre specification:

Reduction in child poverty through ensuring access to debt and welfare advice, information, advice and guidance and increasing confidence and aspirations in parents to engage in employment.

- Children and Young People's Plan priority: Provide all children with the best possible start to life

Outcomes in Children's Centre specification:

Ensuring families, particularly vulnerable families have the capacity to safeguard their children from harm, through intervening early to prevent escalation of need and children being taken into the care of the Local Authority.

Improved physical health and a reduction in health inequalities, particularly through increased breastfeeding, reduced smoking in pregnancy and adoption of healthy lifestyles

Improved infant and parental mental health through promoting attachment and reducing post natal depression

Corporate Plan priority: Providing value for communities

Children's Centres have a requirement to engage communities in the governance and delivery of services. They provide opportunities for volunteering and endeavour to become a community hub. They are well placed to support locality developments and community cohesion.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

The tender was allocated a total budget of £8,016,000 for 3 years but has resulted in bids at a total value of £7,727,254. This has resulted in an efficiency gain of £288,746 over the three year period. The Departmental Management Team for Services for Children and Young People are considering how this can be strategically allocated.

The eight Children's Centres all have buildings associated with their delivery. Corporate Property Services will award leases for these buildings to successful providers in line with the contract for delivery during the handover period.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the tender. This ensured the requirements of the specification and tender fully considered the equality strands and ensured providers had the capability to deliver outcomes for vulnerable or isolated groups in the children centre reach area.

The Equalities Impact Assessment also supported the rigor of monitoring requirements for these services to demonstrate engagement of vulnerable or isolated families in their reach area. The Children’s Centre strategic coordinator will further develop work with Children Centre managers on areas where monitoring was identified as in need of development.

RECOMMENDATIONS & REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Having assessed the tender through the Quality Price Evaluation Framework, it is recommended that Contracts are awarded for a three year period to commence 1 July 2011 and to end 30 June 2014

For reasons of commercial confidentiality, the full details of the proposed contract award are included within a separate Part II Report.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

The alternative to contract award would be to extend current contracts. This option is not recommended as it is not compliant with procurement regulations.

Background Papers:

Department of Education Business Plan, November 2010

Public Health White Paper, Health Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England (DH 2010)

The Health Visitor Implementation Plan 2011-2015 (DH 2011)

Sign off: comment must be sought from those whose area of responsibility may be affected by the decision, as follows (insert initials of Finance and Legal reps, and of HR, Corporate Property, IT and Strat. Proc. as appropriate):

Fin	SA/ChS03 19/03.03.2 011	Leg	11097	HR		Corp Prop	CJT/ 067/ 1603 11	IT		Strat Proc	NA- 03/03- 244
Originating SMT Member: Colin Moore											