

London Borough of Enfield

Cabinet – Part 1 Report (with separate restricted annex)

Meeting Date 7th July 2021

Subject: Contract Award for the Voluntary and Community Sector Outcome 3 – Supporting People to Improve their Health and Wellbeing and Improving Self-Management

Cabinet Member: Councillor Cazimoglu

Executive Director: Tony Theodoulou

Key Decision: KD 5095

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the competitive tender for the Voluntary and Community Sector Outcome 3 – Supporting People to Improve their Health and Wellbeing and Improving Self-Management service and seek approval for contract award.

Proposal(s)

- 2 That Cabinet agree to award the Voluntary and Community Sector Outcome 3 contract to Enfield Voluntary Action for a period of 39 months.

Reason for Proposal(s)

3. The tender completes the initial Council Vision of six Outcome Areas agreed with the Voluntary and Community Sector and agreed by Cabinet in 2017.

Relevance to the Council Plan

4. The Council Plan states '*We need to prevent problems occurring in the first place wherever possible – whether that's by providing early advice and support to stop people getting into debt or becoming homelessness, or preventing people developing avoidable health conditions*'.
5. Pledges in the Council Plan include:
 - Protect vulnerable adults from harm and deliver robust early help and social care services for adults with additional needs.
 - Reduce social isolation and improve mental health by making every contact count, increasing the use of social prescribing and developing inclusive community spaces and services.

Background

6. At the Cabinet on the 18th October 2017 contracts were awarded for the following Outcome areas:
 - Outcome One: Helping People Continue Caring.
 - Outcome Two: Supporting vulnerable adults to remain living healthily and independently in the community
 - Outcome Four: Helping Vulnerable Adults to have a voice.
 - Outcome Five: People recover from illness, safe and appropriate discharge from hospital.
 - Outcome Six: Increased and improved information provision (this contract was not awarded immediately but after review of the tender process).
7. All the contracts commenced from December 2017, except for Outcome 6 which commenced April 2018.
8. There were two delays for retendering Outcome 3 until 2020:
 - The budget in for this outcome area in 2017/18 was used to support other elements of Adult Social Care budget in order to deliver key services.
 - The original specification was reviewed and brought closer in line with the Public Health agenda and then subsequently had to be redrafted to take into account changes caused by the Covid pandemic.
9. Outcome 3 remained unawarded until earlier this year when a tender exercise was commenced but had to be abandoned due to the Covid outbreak.
10. This break allowed Adult Social Care and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Commissioners to review the specification and adapt it to reflect the changing role and approaches the Voluntary and Community Sector have had to adopt during this pandemic.
11. The tender closing date was the 8th February and a full evaluation of all bids has been completed. Formal award of the contract is being sought from Cabinet due to take place on the 7th July 2021.
12. The contract commencement date, subject to agreement by Cabinet, is planned for 1st September 2021 allowing time for the service to mobilise during July and August 2021.
13. In year three the contract value may increase in order to run a twilight service (5.00pm-11.00pm) seven (7) days a week. This twilight service is the 'Community Café' based in the borough, which will focus on:
 - Supporting preventative interventions and self-management of individuals health issues.
 - Helping people manage their mental health wellbeing in the community and reducing the need for statutory services.

14. The key objectives will be to:
 - Provide a non-stigmatising, calm and safe environment.
 - Provide practical and emotional support to enable the person to better self- manage their distress, aid their recovery, and reduce dependency.
 - Ensure that staff, practitioners and peer volunteers are trained, supported and professional in their approach.
 - Link with the wider service system to ensure a joined up partnership approach to the development of local services.
 - Provide confidence, prevent social isolation and change behaviours to fulfil positive outcomes.
15. The twilight service is currently being run as a one year pilot project funded through NCL CCG. Take up and success of the pilot will provide evidence for a strategic decision as to whether to continue funding the twilight project through Outcome 3.
16. The end of this contract is scheduled for the end of November 2025. This will align the VCS Outcome 3 contract with the end date of the other VCS Outcome Area contracts. Before the end all Outcome Areas will be reviewed, amended as appropriate and retendered as necessary.
17. Funding for this service is available through the Adult Social Care revenue budget. The additional value in year 3 will be funded by NCL CCG, subject to evaluation of the existing Twilight Cafe project.
18. An overview of the proposed service pathway can be found on page 9. Details of targets for early intervention and managing long term conditions will be linked back to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and will form part of the post contract award discussions with the provider.
19. Details of the service provision and tender evaluation can be found in the restricted annex to this report.

Main Considerations for the Council

20. That by commissioning the final Outcome area it will have a suite of Voluntary and Community Services as outlined in the October 2017 Cabinet report.
21. Details of the tender evaluation quality scoring and the tenderers financial submissions; all can be found in the confidential appendix attached to this report.

Safeguarding Implications

22. All staff of the working in the new Voluntary and Community Sector consortium will be DBS checked and be trained on raising safeguarding alerts.

Public Health Implications

23. The service provided through this tender will provide residents with opportunity to receive early support with the aim of preventing crisis in the future. Prevention of crisis results in both better outcomes for clients and is more cost effective.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

24. This is a new Voluntary and Community Sector service reaching out to harder to reach groups within our communities, reducing inequalities and assisting people manage long term conditions, with the aim of increasing their quality and length of life.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

25. This is a local service contract so has limited impact on the environment, as the service is local there is also limited environmental travel costs. Part of the deliverables for this service is to provide advice and guidance which would also include referring the community to the Public Health message of healthier living.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

26. Long-term conditions are illnesses that usually cannot be cured but can be controlled or quality of life improved through a variety of interventions, including lifestyle changes, medicines or other treatments. Examples of '**long-term conditions**' include arthritis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, angina, heart failure, and high blood pressure (hypertension). Mental ill health is also included here for the purposes of this service. Uncontrolled or poorly managed long-term conditions result in significant impacts on individuals' quality of life and places a significant burden on Health and Social Care resources. Failure to award this contract would result in a significant gap in our early intervention and prevention offer.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

27. None Identified

Financial Implications

28. See Restricted Annex of this report

Legal Implications

29. The Council, under s.111 Local Government Act 1972 has power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions. The Council also has a general power of competence under s.1(1) Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals

generally may do, provided it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to Public Law principles. This power includes the power to enter into contracts.

The Council must comply with all requirements of its Constitution, and in particular, the Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015). The Services being procured that are the subject of this report would appear to come under regulation 74 of PCR 2015 - public contracts for social and other specific services ('the 'light touch regime'). Contracting authorities are required to determine the procedures that are to be applied in connection with the award of the contract under the light touch regime and may take into account the specifics of the services in question. The procedures followed are required to be at least sufficient to ensure compliance with the principals of transparency and equal treatment of economic operators.

The contract to be entered into must be in a form approved by the Director of Governance and Law and for all contracts over £500,000 in value:

- the contract must be executed as a deed by the use of the council's common seal; and
- The decision shall constitute a key decision and so the key decision processes must be followed as laid out in the council's constitution.

CPR 7.2 not only provides for the contract to be awarded as a key decision as per above, but also sets out the rules in respect of the security requirements for the contract to manage risk depending on the total value of the contract. As the contract that is the subject of this report is between £500,000 to £1,000,000 sufficient security from the Supplier should be considered. Evidence of the form of security or why no security was required of the Supplier must be stored on the E-Tendering Portal for audit purposes. The forms of security that are acceptable are set out in CPR 7.3 (for example a performance bond).

Workforce Implications

30. There are no workforce implications as Enfield staff are not involved in the supply of this contract. As this is a new service there will be no TUPE involved.

Property Implications

31. Going forward and post Covid the tender requires the provider to have a physical presence within the borough. This potentially could be delivered from the Wellbeing Hub being, as well as other appropriate venues as well as virtually and in community spaces around the borough, particularly in those parts of the borough where our harder to reach residents live.

Other Implications – Procurement Implications

32. Any procurement must be undertaken in accordance with the Councils Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's) and the Public Contracts Regulations (2015).
33. The award of the contract, including evidence of authority to award, promoting to the Councils Contract Register, and the uploading of executed contracts must be undertaken on the London Tenders Portal including future management of the contract.
34. All awarded projects must be promoted to Contracts Finder to comply with the Government's transparency requirements.
35. The procurement was undertaken through an Open Competitive process under the EU procurement directives. This is to ensure the most amount of competition and demonstrate value for money.
36. It is expected the service will carry out effective contract management to ensure that VFM is maintained throughout the lifetime of the contract. That scheduled contract reviews are carried out in order to determine long terms plans for the services. These reviews should include the monitoring of equalities within the contract, and that the supplier is not supporting Modern Slavery.

Options Considered

37. The option was considered not to progress with the tender. However, this would leave a gap in the overall service model for the Voluntary and Community Sector outcome areas; and more specifically a gap in the Voluntary and Community Sector service offer for the Mental Health Wellbeing Hub.

Conclusions

38. That Cabinet agree the recommendations of contract award to Enfield Voluntary Action for a period of forty-one months.

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Appendices – Restricted Annex; Not for publication

Background Papers

The following documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report:
None.