

Award of Contract for Approved Supplier for a range of accommodation provision and support services from low level support through to intense support services for young people aged 16 and 17

Cabinet Member for Children's Services

September 2014

Deadline date: 30 September 2014

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Cllr Sheila Scott, Cabinet Member for Children's Services Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Director Communities
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan : Yes Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan : KEY/02MAY14/04
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO
Is this a project and if so has it been registered on Verto?	NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member is requested to:

1. Authorise the award of a framework contract for accommodation and support services for young people leaving care to the providers listed below, for a period of three years with an option to extend for 2 years. The contract value is £2.062million over the period of the contract.

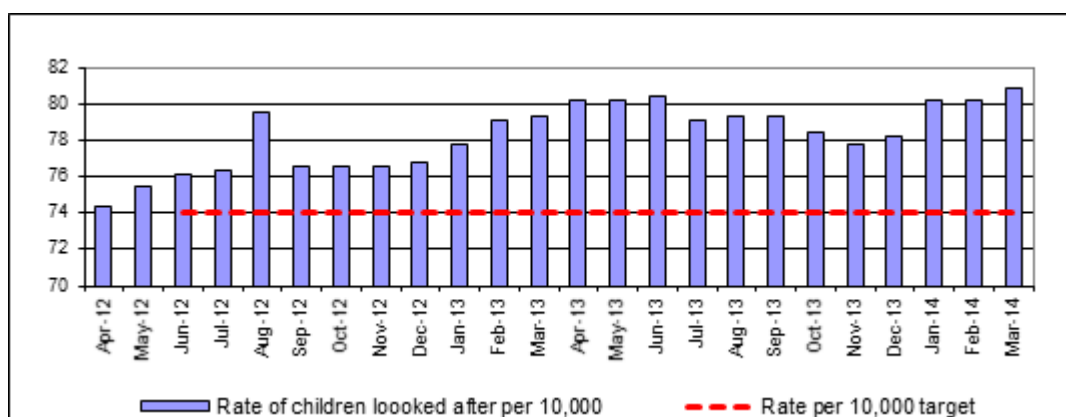
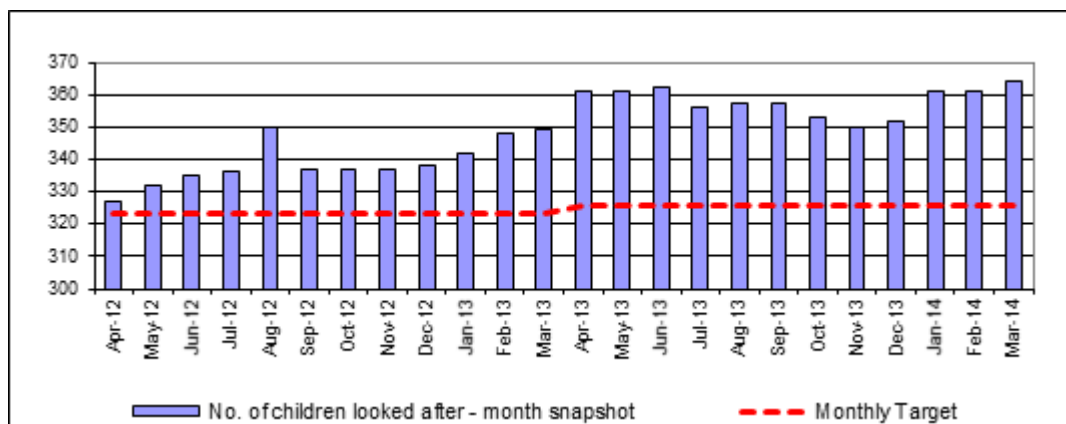
Lot 1: K2, PC Homes, Lincolns Care, Jordan Xavier, Transitions Care, Step Ahead, 16+ Ltd and Key 2

Lot 2: K2, Lincolns Care, Jordan Xavier, Transitions Care, Step Ahead, 16+ Ltd and Key 2

Lot 3: Lincolns Care, Transitions Care, Step Ahead and 16+ Ltd

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Children (Leaving Care Act) 2000 introduced requirements of local authorities to comprehensively plan and support looked after children to enable them to transition from the care system into adulthood. Over the years this has led to an increase in demand for accommodation and support services. In Peterborough we have an ageing looked after children care population as detailed below:



1.2 This Framework Contract is for the provision of supervised and supported move-on accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who are in care (including those entering care to prevent homelessness once they have had a period in foster care to assess their independence skills) or are care leavers up to the age of 18. It is for an initial three year period from October 2014 and may be extended for up to a further two years.

1.3 Young People leaving care have diverse accommodation needs but most are very clear that they want to live in the area they come from and are familiar with. Furthermore, their needs will change over the period they are care leavers.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide background information and seek the Cabinet Member's approval in relation to the recommendations

2.2 This decision is proposed in accordance with the delegations for the Cabinet Member for Children's Services exercising delegated authority under Part 3, Section 3 (Executive Functions – Executive Decisions), paragraph 3.4.8(a) of the Constitution in accordance with the terms of her portfolio at paragraph (d).

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	
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4. DETAILS OF DECISION REQUIRED

- 4.1 Peterborough City Council undertook a procurement exercise to award a framework contract for the provision of accommodation and support for looked after children who are 16 years of age and older, to the organisations listed within the Procurement section below.
- 4.2 The contract requires the provider to be responsible for delivering a service that empowers and enables young people to make decisions about their future. They will promote and support best practice principles ensuring the welfare of the young person.
- 4.3 The provider must demonstrate continual improvements in value for money achieved by deploying efficient and innovative ways of meeting both the accommodation and support needs of eligible young people.
- 4.4 The provider will provide or secure suitable accommodation within Peterborough (or surrounds) that responds to the requirements of the young people in terms of locality. Accommodation must be of a suitable standard that does not raise unrealistic expectations, but is both attainable and affordable by care leavers as they move on.
- 4.5 A budget of £2.062m has been set for this contract. These funds are allocated against the Communities budget within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) (2013/14-2016/17).

5. PROCUREMENT

- 5.1 This service is classified as a Part B Service contract, under category 25 of the Public Contract Regulations 2006, and therefore not subject to the EU regulations for tendering. A Competitive Contract Notice was published through the Council's e-sourcing portal which publishes the opportunity to a number of tendering journals, such as Contract Finder and the Council's website.
- 5.2 The open procurement process comprised a qualifying stage in which bidders were assessed against criteria covering: finance; insurance; quality assurance and requirement specific elements such as Safeguarding. All bidders passed this stage and went on to the second stage.
- 5.3 The second stage (known as Key Quality) consisted of two elements weighted as follows:-
- Response to Tender Requirement Questionnaire - 60%
 - Price - 40%
- 5.4 The Evaluation Panel undertook a desktop evaluation of the written submissions, supported by clarification meetings with bidders. Secondly, tender submissions were evaluated on price.

Tenders were evaluated on a Quality: Cost ratio of 60%:40%.

- 5.5 Eight organisations submitted tenders and were evaluated as follows:

Lot 1

Provider	Lot 1 %	Successful Yes/No
Provider A	55.27%	Yes
Provider B	52.32%	Yes
Provider C	59.99%	Yes
Provider D	52.81%	Yes

Provider E	68.86%	Yes
Provider F	74.94%	Yes
Provider G	68.94%	Yes
Provider H	60.36%	Yes

Lot 2

Provider	Lot 2 %	Successful Yes/No
Provider A	50.72%	Yes
Provider B	62.86%	Yes
Provider C	51.65%	Yes
Provider D	74.85%	Yes
Provider E	70.75%	Yes
Provider F	69.79%	Yes
Provider G	59.27%	Yes

Lot 3

Provider	Lot 3 %	Successful Yes/No
Provider A	56.17%	Yes
Provider B	53.82%	Yes
Provider C	76.29%	Yes
Provider D	53.14%	Yes
Provider E	30.92%	No
Provider F	42.52%	No

- 5.6 From the evaluation, all 8 bidders for Lot 1 and all 7 bidders for Lot 2 met the minimum standards (50% Price and Quality) and of the 7 that submitted responses for Lot 3, four were successful.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 In order to ensure the provider is clear on the expectation in relation to both the quality and standard of accommodation offered to young people, the Council has collaborated with participating authorities in the Eastern Region to develop the 'Other Arrangements and Suitable Accommodation' Toolkit. The toolkit sets out the framework and requirements to be taken into consideration when placing children looked after and care leavers aged 16+ (and in certain circumstances care leavers aged 18+ where Children's Services is funding accommodation and support) in accommodation and/or placements that are not registered under the Care Standards Act 2000 and are therefore not registered or inspected by Ofsted.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 7.1 The aim of the framework contract is to work in partnership with a range of providers of accommodation and support services to ensure a supply of good quality accommodation, either owned or rented both within Peterborough and surrounding areas.
- 7.2 Support staff shall be suitably skilled, experienced and trained to be able to assist/support young people in accordance with their Pathway Plan and the outcomes therein.
- 7.3 The aim is to place eligible young people in Peterborough where possible in line with the 16+ Accommodation Strategy.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

8.1 Primary Legislation

The Children Act 1989, The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 and associated statutory guidance are the controlling legislation. National Standards in Leaving Care are set out in the Every Child Matters (ECM). Providers shall be conversant with that format and its outcomes framework. Other key documents are set out below.

The Children Act 1989, as amended by The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, imposed a duty on local authorities to provide support and suitable accommodation to relevant children unless they are satisfied that their welfare does not require it, by:

- maintaining them;
- providing them with or maintaining them in suitable accommodation;
- providing support of such other description as may be prescribed [Children Act - s 23 (B) (8) (b)].

8.2 The Guidance to the Leaving Care Act suggests that, at 16 & 17, most care leavers moving into independence are likely to require supported accommodation of one type or another.

8.3 Many will, therefore, have both a *care plan* and a *pathway plan* to assist with their transition to independence. Both are regularly reviewed, the former by an Independent Reviewing Officer. The accommodation Provider shall be expected to contribute to these planning and review processes.

8.4 In relation to 16/17 year olds at risk of homelessness, the 'Statutory Guidance on the Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year old Young People who may be Homeless and/or require Accommodation' is the key guidance document.

8.5 Providers should also be familiar with the accelerated Report for the Children's Commissioner on Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (July 2012) which makes a number of recommendations with implications for the provision of accommodation for care leavers including a call for a ban on placing 16/17 year olds (and other young people) in bed and breakfast accommodation and for action to prevent the placement of vulnerable young people in neighbourhoods where adults who pose a risk to them either live or have access to them.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The following alternative options were considered:

- Do nothing / maintain the status quo
 - This option was considered and discounted as it is not compliant with the Authority's Contract Rules
- Other options
 - Tender for a provider to hold a block contract. This was not considered the best value for money as this arrangement will not offer the flexibility and choice that a framework contract, and therefore multiple providers, will.

10. IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The legal and financial implications of this Cabinet Member Decision Notice are set out in the main body of the report.

11. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Specification for the Provision of 16+ Accommodation and Support Services
Other Arrangements and Suitable Accommodation Toolkit