

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S
REPORT TO**

Cabinet
19 July 2022

Report Title: Award of Contract – Provision of a Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service for the period 2022-25

Submitted by: Martin Hamilton, Chief Executive

Portfolios: Community Safety and Wellbeing

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

Retrospective approval request for award of contract

Recommendation

That retrospective approval is given to the award of contract to Honeycomb Charitable Services Limited following the completion of a compliant procurement process.

Reasons

The contract is for the Provision of a Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service on behalf of the Newcastle Partnership & the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme, as the lead agency for the Newcastle Partnership, is seeking to maintain the delivery of a support service to enhance existing domestic abuse services. The service is commissioned across Staffordshire and is specifically for children and young people.
- 1.2 The Newcastle Partnership is committed to delivering a high quality service to the vulnerable and those at risk in the Borough of Newcastle. The main purpose of the service is to offer specialist support to children and young people affected by domestic abuse, either due to them witnessing it within the family home or experiencing it in their own relationships.
- 1.3 The previous Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service contract expired on 31st May 2022 and was delivered successfully.
- 1.4 As part of a compliant procurement process, the Borough Council invited suitably qualified agencies to provide a proposal and quotation for the provision of a Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service for the period 2022-25. Officers informed all local agencies and partners

(listed on the Newcastle Partnerships database of local agencies) of the contract opportunity, publishing a national contract notice.

- 1.5 Officers sought to find a local agency for the delivery of the service, based on the nature of the delivery requirements. With a robust service outline in place, the evaluation was based on 30% price and 70% quality.
- 1.6 Whilst there were six interests initially noted for the contract opportunity, at the closing date for submissions only one bid had been received. A panel of three officers evaluated the submission and all agreed that the proposal was fully compliant and responded well to the published service outline requirements.
- 1.7 A contract was let to the bidder for an initial ten-month period with the option to extend for a further two separate twelve month periods. Extensions are subject to available funding and satisfactory performance (as assessed by officers of Newcastle Partnership & Borough Council).
- 1.8 Regrettably, due to a miscalculation in arriving at the total contract sum for the purposes of applying the Council's "Key Decision" rules, authority was not sought from Cabinet prior to letting the contract. A decision of Cabinet is now required to ratify the decision to let the contract.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The main issues are set out above.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 To ratify the decision to award the contract to Honeycomb Charitable Services Limited.

4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

- 4.1 The service outline meets the needs of vulnerable residents and supports wellbeing and good use of funds.

5. **Options Considered**

- 5.1 Internalisation of the service was discounted as an option based on the special characteristics and specialists skill sets required from a service provider; these skill sets not being available within the Council, coupled with the estimated recruitment / salary costs being higher than the available supportive funding (budget) for the service.
- 5.2 No other bids for the contract were received, so alternative would be to restart the procurement process

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 Set out in the body of the report.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 The contract ensures the provision of relevant services on a non-discriminatory basis.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

8.1 The aggregated value over the life of the contract is £127,500 these monies being made available as part of Community-safety-related Locality Deal, Proceeds of Crime and People Power Funds on a year to year basis.

8.2 The budget availability for this service will be monitored and reviewed annually based on the availability of the above (Community-safety-related Locality Deal, Proceeds of Crime and People Power) funds.

9. **Major Risks**

9.1 The most significant risk is considered to be the non-provision of the service and the missed opportunity to provide better outcomes for affected persons.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

10.1 Delivery of the Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service will support in addressing:



11. **Key Decision Information**

11.1 Over the potential 3 years of the contract delivery, the overall cost will potentially reach £127,500

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

12.1 n/a

13. **List of Appendices**

13.1 n/a

14. **Background Papers**

14.1 n/a