

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Karen Smith, Director of Adult Services
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Amy Cross, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Jenna Douthwaite, Contracts Officer
Implementation Date of Decision:	3 April 2017

CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF BLACKPOOL ADVOCACY HUB

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To approve the appointment of Empowerment Charity Lancashire as the contractor for the Provision of Blackpool Advocacy Hub, following an Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) tendering exercise.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To appoint Empowerment Charity Lancashire as the contractor for the Provision of Blackpool Advocacy Hub for a period of 3 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years (on a 1 plus 1 year basis) subject to budget and satisfactory review.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 A formal OJEU tendering exercise was undertaken during March 2017 to select a contractor to provide the Blackpool Advocacy Hub. The Council invited tenders through its electronic Portal (The Chest), in a 1 stage process (Open Tender).

In total 28 Suppliers registered an interest and 4 submitted a tender response. After the evaluation stage Empowerment Charity Lancashire provided the most economically advantageous tender and it is the intention to enter into a formal agreement.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Due to legislative developments, demand for advocacy services from users of health and social care services is increasing, locally and nationally. The Care Act 2014 brought in new statutory obligations for Local Authorities to enable eligible service users and carers access to independent advocacy. Specifically, the 2014 Supreme Court Judgement regarding Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) has seen an increase in demand for Independent Mental Capacity Advocate interventions.

5.2 The relocation of a significant proportion of mental health beds into the Blackpool area in the newly opened Harbour Mental Health in-patient facility has seen an increase in demand for Independent Mental Health Advocate services. In addition to this, welfare reforms, significant areas of service redesign, the introduction of national eligibility criteria and cuts to public services and more people than ever are seeking an independent voice to speak up for, or with them.

5.3 This has resulted in an incremental growth of services and a somewhat fragmented provision of support.

5.4 Blackpool Council seeks to appoint one provider of Advocacy services under a single contract which will cover all Advocacy provision in Blackpool. This will bring Advocacy services for adults and children together to create a Single Point of Access through the Blackpool Advocacy Hub. The aim is for a coordinated and joined up Advocacy Service to deliver all Independent Advocacy for eligible adults, children and young people with health and social care needs living in Blackpool.

5.5 The new service model will create flexibility to respond to increased demand, through optimised resource allocation and use of multi-skilled advocates able to work across specialisms. It will include a preventative role, reducing the need for statutory, intensive support by helping people through provision of advice and information, peer and group advocacy, and through self-help resources. The expectation is that by offering non-statutory, generic advocacy alongside statutory or specialist provision, people will be enabled to fully explore their options without needing to immediately access statutory services.

5.6 Blackpool Advocacy Hub will deliver the following types of Advocacy:

- *Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA)*
- *Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA)*
- *Relevant Person's Representative (RPR)*
- *Care Act Advocacy*
- *NHS complaints advocacy*
- *Non Statutory Advocacy*
- *Looked After Children's Advocacy (LAC)*

5.7 Blackpool Council wishes to appoint a Contractor who can clearly demonstrate the ability to meet our requirements and who offers the most economically advantageous tender.

5.8 The contract term will be 3 years with the option to extend incrementally for a period of 1+1 years and the contract value will be £244,000 per year, subject to contract review and budget availability.

5.9 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.10 **List of Appendices:**

None

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 The Project is in line with the Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations 2015 and authority has been sought from the Head of Procurement.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)) may apply to this contract in relation to staff currently employed by two incumbent contractors. It is the responsibility of the successful bidder to seek legal advice and make the necessary TUPE arrangements.

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 The contract value for the service to is £244,000 per year.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There is a risk there may be a delay in provision of adequate staffing. A demand management approach will be taken to address this.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has been carried out within the review of Advocacy services in 2014.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To appoint Empowerment Charity Lancashire as the contractor for the Provision of Blackpool Advocacy Hub for a period of 3 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years (on a 1 plus 1 year basis) subject to budget and satisfactory review.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 Empowerment Charity Lancashire provided the Most Economically Advantageous Tender that met the requirements of the contract.