

## Officer Non Key Executive Decision

<b>Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):</b>	Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):</b>	Councillor Kathryn Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
<b>Report Author (Officer name and title):</b>	Cath Bagley, Deputy Head of Procurement and Projects
<b>Implementation Date of Decision:</b>	18 December 2018

### PROVISION OF TARGETED SUPPORT TO PROMOTE BETTER FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION AND PUPIL INCLUSION

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To seek approval to appoint School – Home Support as the provider of '*targeted support to promote better family engagement in education and pupil inclusion*' across Blackpool.

#### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the appointment of School – Home Support as the provider of '*targeted support to promote better family engagement in education and pupil inclusion*' across Blackpool for the period from January 2019 until August 2020.

#### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 An OJEU tender exercise was undertaken, commencing in October 2018 in order to select the most suitable provider able to deliver the requirements of the service.

3 organisations submitted proposals as detailed below:

- School-Home Support - London
- Barnardo's - Essex
- Core Assets Children's Services - Worcestershire

The submissions were evaluated by a panel consisting of representatives from the Council's School Improvement Service, the Opportunity Area Programme, Blackpool Secondary Schools and from the Department for Education. The process was facilitated by the Council's Procurement Team.

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 The Project aims to develop new arrangements for early help and intervention to support greater family resilience and avoid family breakdown/progression to statutory care as well as seeking to extend capacity and forge a stronger link with local schools.

5.2 The contract looks to address the issues relating to disengagement from education that exist and which not only lead to poorer educational outcomes but also increases the risk of other community-based issues (e.g. youth crime, drug abuse and other safeguarding concerns). Capacity is needed to help pupils re-engage in the system and to keep children 'connected' who are at significant risk of disengaging at key points.

5.3 The Project is part of the Opportunity Area Programme and will be fixed in term. The Project will run in line with the Council's existing framework, particularly with respect to resilience and the Head Start and Better Start Programmes.

5.4 The project supports Priority 2 of the Opportunity Area delivery plan to provide support for vulnerable children and families to improve attendance and outcomes and reduce exclusions from schools.

5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**5.6 List of Appendices:**

None.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 The process was undertaken in line with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and is in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Authority has been sought from the Head of Procurement. The Council will enter into a formal contract with School – Home Support.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 The costs associated with the delivery of this contract will be met from Department for Education, Opportunity Area Funding.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Should the contract not go ahead there is a risk for those children who become disengaged from education attaining poorer educational outcomes. There is also significant evidence showing that these same individuals are at an increased risk of participation in other negative community-based issues such as involvement in youth crime, drug abuse and other safeguarding concerns.

A project risk register will be drawn up within the project to manage and mitigate project risks. Resolution will be monitored and reported to the Opportunity Area Programme Board.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 School – Home Support’s tender submission has shown that their company ethos aligns with the Blackpool Council Supplier Charter. They will sign up to the Charter at Contract award.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Consultation with key stakeholders has been managed through the Opportunity Area Programme Board.

The Head of Procurement has remained informed throughout the process.

**13.0 Decision of Chief Officer**

13.1 To approve that a formal contract is entered into with School – Home Support as the provider of *‘targeted support to promote better family engagement in education and pupil inclusion’*.

**14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer**

14.1 School – Home Support provided the most economically advantageous tender, which also fully met the requirements of the service.