

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Diane Booth, Director of Children's Services
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Kathryn Benson, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Chrissie Chesters – Contracts Officer, Corporate Procurement and projects Team
Implementation Date of Decision:	16 May 2019

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF TARGETED SUPPORT FOR 16/17 YEAR OLDS WHO ARE NEET (NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING) INCLUDING LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To seek approval to appoint Blackpool Council, Economic Development – 'Positive Steps Into Work' as our provider of *'Targeted Support for 16/17 year olds who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Including Looked After Children and Care Leavers'*.

Please note that this agreement shall be funded by agreed Opportunity Area funding approved by the Opportunity Area Board. The Department for Education required a procurement process / selection process to be undertaken.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve Blackpool Council, Economic Development – 'Positive Steps Into Work' as our provider for *'Targeted Support for 16/17 year olds who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Including Looked After Children and Care Leavers'* for a period of 14 months starting 17 June 2019 to 31 August 2020, with no option to extend.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 An open (light-touch) non-OJEU tender process was carried out using The Chest Portal to identify the most suitable provider to deliver the requirements of the service.
- 3.1.1 2 organisations submitted a tender return for evaluation:-
- Blackpool Council, Economic Development – 'Positive Steps Into Work'
 - Groundwork – Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside

3.1.2 The submissions were evaluated by a panel consisting of representatives from the Council's Opportunity Area Programme, Children's Services Directorate (Early Help) and the DfE. The evaluation exercise was moderated by members of the Council's Procurement Team.

3.1.3 The exercise was weighted 60% Quality, 20% Social Value, and 20% Price (15% price submitted and 5% financial model).

3.1.4 We have evaluated this tender using Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) analysis, whereby weightings are allotted to each of the listed criteria along with a rationale on the scores to be awarded against the criteria and the submission receiving the highest amount of marks is recommended to be awarded the contract.

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

For information this contract shall be funded by agreed Opportunity Area funding approved by the Opportunity Area Board.

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 This is a one-off procurement process. The project is part of the Opportunity Area Programme and will be fixed term. Programme funding is due to end on 31 August 2020.

5.2 This agreement shall be funded from grant funding awarded from the Department for Education (DfE) 'Opportunity Area' to Blackpool Council.

5.3 Twelve Opportunity Areas have been identified in England to tackle social mobility. Blackpool has been identified as one of these areas based on the Social Mobility Commission's social mobility index and education data. A local partnership has been formed with early years' Service, schools, colleges, the Local Enterprise Partnership, businesses, charities and local

authority to ensure all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

A key aim of Opportunity Areas is to build young people's knowledge and skills and provide them with the best advice and opportunities, including working with organisations such as the Careers and Enterprise Company, the Confederation of British Industry, the Federation of Small Businesses, and the National Citizen Service. The Department for Education (DfE) is targeting its programmes to ensure children get the best start in the early years, to build teaching and leadership capacity in schools, to increase access to university, to strengthen technical pathways for young people, and work with employers to improve young people's access to the right advice and experiences.

5.4 There is a strong emphasis in the Blackpool Opportunity Area Programme on learning about what works and making what is proven to work sustainable.

5.5 Aims of the Service

To support 16/17yr olds in the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Group, including Looked After Children are supported by Blackpool Council staff in the Blackpool Young People Service (provide Early Help) and the Permanence Team (provide a statutory Social Worker for Looked After Children).

By providing specialist employment support to deliver two strands of work:

A. Co – deliver with Blackpool Council staff :-

- 4 week unpaid work experience placements (a mix of development and try before you buy placements) for 16/17 yr. olds in the NEET group. Target - 60 young people (50% Looked After Children)
- A 6 month paid internship will be piloted with 16/17 yr. olds in the NEET group who need more support to engage. Target 12 young people (50% Looked After Children).

B. Provide workforce development for Blackpool Council staff front line workers (Children's Services) to develop the quality of the employment interventions with young people.

5.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.7 **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 Deputy Head of Procurement. The Council will enter into a service level agreement with Economic Development – 'Positive Steps Into Work'

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

- 7.1 Economic Development – ‘Positive Steps Into Work’ will need to recruit an additional member of staff (fixed term) to support delivery and as set out within their submission. Other staff will be seconded from within the service.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

- 8.1 n/a

9.0 Financial considerations:

- 9.1 The costs associated with the delivery of this contract will be met within existing Opportunity Area budget agreed by the Opportunity Area Board.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

- 10.1 No payments will be made in advance and paid monthly in arrears.
- 10.2 The successful provider is a Blackpool Council internal service provider/service area.
- 10.3 If the contract is not awarded then we will not be fulfilling the requirements approved at the Opportunity Area Board and agreed by Department for Education.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

- 11.1 The submission evidenced an understanding of Blackpool Council’s Supplier Charter and the Charter was signed as part of the submission.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

- 12.1 Request to proceed with the process followed approval by the Opportunity Area Board with the Department for Education fully cited.
- 12.2 Any required consultation would be undertaken pre-exercise by the Opportunity Area Programme (if required).
- 12.3 The Deputy Head of Procurement had remained informed throughout the process.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

- 13.1 To approve Blackpool Council, Economic Development – ‘Positive Steps Into Work’ as our provider for *‘Targeted Support for 16/17 year olds who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Including Looked After Children and Care Leavers’* for a period of 14 months starting 17 June 2019 to 31 August 2020, with no option to extend.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

- 14.1 Blackpool Council, Economic Development – ‘Positive Steps Into Work’ provided the most economically advantageous tender, which also fully met the requirements of the service.