

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Vicky Gent, Director of Children's Services
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Jim Hobson, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Jenna Douthwaite, Senior Corporate Procurement and Projects Officer
Implementation Date of Decision:	17 March 2023

INDIVIDUAL CARE AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To confirm the appointment of a supplier to provide Individual Care and Support for Children and Young People.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To confirm the appointment of Autism Initiatives UK (Bootle) as the supplier for the above named service.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 A formal tendering exercise was undertaken to select suppliers to provide services for a period of three years with the option to extend the agreement incrementally for a further four years (2+2).

The Council invited tenders through its electronic portal (The Chest), in a one stage process (Open Tender).

75 suppliers registered an interest and five tenders were submitted.

The tender submissions were evaluated by representatives from Blackpool Council. At the conclusion of the evaluation it was determined that Autism Initiatives UK had submitted a tender that met the Council's requirements, which was of good quality and provided value for money.

It is therefore recommended that the Council enters into a contract with this supplier

for the provision of individual care and support services for children and young people.

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:

N/A

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 Council currently contracts with a number of providers to deliver support for children and young people. The arrangements have been in place for a number of years and are due to be refreshed in order to ensure the services can meet individual's needs. The Council now wishes to bring the specification up to date and implement a new Individual Care and Support model which will deliver good quality, flexible and responsive support to service users. To achieve this it also need to ensure it has providers who are suitably experienced and capable to deliver the service in line with the new specification.

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.3 **List of Appendices:**

N/A

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The tender process was undertaken in compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Authority has been sought from the Head of Procurement. The Council will enter into contractual arrangements with Autism Initiatives UK.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 Consideration has been given as to whether there could be unintended adverse impacts on people because of shared characteristics protected by the Equality Act.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The service costs will be met from existing budget.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None identified.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The suppliers has signed the Council's Supplier Charter which includes a commitment to consider how they can make a positive contribution to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Blackpool in order to help achieve the Council's priorities.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Key internal and external stakeholders were engaged during the procurement process.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve the appointment of Autism Initiatives UK.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 The supplier named above has demonstrated that they can meet the Council's requirements and provided the most economically advantageous tender based on the combination of quality, price, and social value.