

**AGENDA ITEM: 8**

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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	27 September 2011
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Early Intervention and Prevention Commissioned Contracts</b>
Report of	Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families
Summary	This report seeks approval to award contracts for early intervention and prevention services, to waive the contract procedure rule for extension of contracts and to extend some of the already existing contracts.

Officer Contributors	Stav Yiannou, Divisional Manager, Early Intervention & Prevention Team Zahid Parvez, Business Manager, Early Intervention & Prevention Team Usha Chadha, Grant Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Early Intervention & Prevention Team
Status (public or exempt)	Public (with a separate exempt report)
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	None
For decision by	Cabinet Resources Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	Not applicable

Contact for further information: Usha Chadha, Grant Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, 020 8359 6267 [usha.chadha@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:usha.chadha@barnet.gov.uk)

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Committee approves the award of contracts to the value of £1,429,720.**
- 1.2 That the Committee approves a waiver of Contract Procedure Rules (rule 5.6.1.2) to enable a further extension of the contracts currently commissioned for existing targeted services (that are currently commissioned and currently in an extension period) if successful for the new contracts are allowed a further extension (to 31 October 2011) to enable continuity for the reasons set out in paragraph 8.4 below.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 None.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The services for consideration will contribute towards the key priorities and objectives of the Council's 2010/11-2012/13 Corporate Plan:

- Better services with less money;
- Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities and
- A successful London suburb.

- 3.2 Services will also contribute to the priorities outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan 2010/11-2012/13:

- intervene early to strengthen families;
- ensure the early identification of children and families to enable appropriate preventative interventions through the Common Assessment Framework (CAF);
- ensure every child has a good start to life by providing access to high quality early years provision and support;
- refocus work around early years standards to ensure appropriate support, training and challenge, helping to narrow attainment gaps;
- promote access for all children and young people to positive activities;
- reduce economic disadvantage through tackling child poverty:
  - a) Ensuring access to affordable and suitable childcare;
  - b) Supporting parents to build confidence and skills;
  - c) Addressing health, including mental health, both as a cause and consequence of poverty.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 The original start date for the contracts has been changed from 1 October 2011 to 1 November 2011. This is due to the unexpected volume of tenders received (the council had received 69 expressions of interest) and the intervening Easter/Summer holidays resulting in a delay of the evaluation and interview process. Within the Early Intervention and Prevention Service, 11 organisations are currently commissioned to provide targeted services that are due to expire on 30 September 2011. For organisations that are successful in the new bidding round, we are requesting a continuation of one month extension for these contracts. This will enable a continuation of service and have minimal impact for users. The services provided by these organisations that are not successful in the tender process or who have not submitted an application will cease as planned on 30 September 2011. This would imply a risk of no service provision for one

month in some areas of service delivery. The Early Intervention and Prevention service has assessed the risk and is able to contain the risk with minimal impact to users.

- 4.2 During the tendering process, it became evident that a number of providers were looking to provide a similar service that currently either exists or is shaped to be similar within Children's Service. As a result of this, the Early Intervention and Prevention team have worked with Divisional Managers in Youth & Connexions Services and Complex needs. Organisations that fell into this group were briefed at the interview stage of the tendering process and where appropriate, asked to revise and rebalance their application to focus on the needs of the Children's Service.
- 4.3 To ensure monies are being spent effectively all new contracts will be performance managed throughout the term of the contract using a robust monitoring system. This system is currently in place for current contracts.

## **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 5.1 The project specification states, 'Barnet Children's Service is committed to ensuring that all children and young people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability or other differences are able to access opportunities and activities, and are enabled to achieve their potential.
- 5.2 At the first stage of evaluation, 'Pre-Qualifying Questionnaire', a series of checks were undertaken on the organisations. One of the checks was the organisation's Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policies. If this was found to be not robust, the organisation would not have passed to the next stage of the tender process.
- 5.3 At the second stage of the evaluation, 'Invitation to Tender', further consideration was given to those tenders reaching hard-to-reach groups defined by culture and ethnicity to ensure diversity of service provision meets the needs of Barnet's diverse cultures.
- 5.4 Service users will be able to access services, irrespective of their ethnicity, religion or disability. This will be checked during the regular performance monitoring of the contract

## **6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property and Sustainability)**

- 6.1 The contract for £1,429,720 will be funded by £1,350,000 from the commissioning budget for the period 1 November 2011 to 31 March 2013 for Early Intervention and Prevention to commission a range of services for 0-19 year olds (up to 25 with a disability). The £64,220 represents a virement from the Family Focus Team (within the Early Intervention and Prevention team) and this will fund a targeted family support service delivered by Community Barnet as outlined in the original tendering process. The service will reach Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities, and will compliment Family Focus team within EIP. The £25,500 will be vired from the Early Intervention and Prevention Domestic Violence (low risk) budget to fund domestic violence initiatives.
- 6.2 The commissioning process has been conducted in accordance with Corporate Contract Procedure Rules.
- 6.3 The tender process operated three stages of evaluation and is detailed in section 9.

- 6.4 On 6 September, the interview panel met (made up of senior officers within Children's Service) to discuss final scores and agree proposed contracts in line with Barnet corporate priorities and the children young people plan 2010/11-2012/13.
- 6.5 The list of contracts to be approved is detailed in section 9.
- 6.6 The proposal to extend existing contracts for successful bidders until new contracts are in place can be contained with the overall budget for this area.
- 6.7 There is a gap in Domestic Violence (low risk) services as the tender process did not identify a suitable provider. The budget required for this service is £25,500 and will be met by the Domestic Violence Early Intervention and Prevention Services (low risk) budget.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 7.1 For the purposes of European procurement rules, the Early Intervention and Prevention Service contracts fall within Category B of Schedule 3 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2006. Procurements of Category B services do not have to follow the full European procurement regime. However, as indicated in paragraph 4 above, a competitive tender process was carried out using the European 'open procedure' and this will have ensured compliance with the, relevant, Treaty principles.
- 7.2 All new providers will be required to enter into an agreement/contract with the Council specifying the term and conditions for provision of the services.

## **8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 8.1 The Council's constitution in Part 3, Responsibility for Functions, paragraph 3.6 states the terms of reference of the Cabinet Resources Committee.
- 8.2 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules in Paragraph 5.1-5 set out the arrangements for authorisation before quotations or tenders for supplies, services or works may be sought and for the subsequent acceptance of tenders or other purchase arrangements. In the case of the proposed award of contract specified in this report, authorisation and acceptance by the Cabinet Committee is required in view of the expected value of some of the contracts.
- 8.3 Paragraph 5.6 of the Contract Procedure Rules set out the criteria to be met before a contract can be extended. The criteria are that:
  - 5.6.1.1 the initial contract was based on a competitive tender or quotations;
  - 5.6.1.2 the initial contract has not been extended before; and
  - 5.6.1.3 the value of the extension is less than half the cost of the existing contract without the extension and has a budget allocation.
- 8.4 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules in paragraph 5.8 provides that the Contract Procedure Rules may only be waived by the appropriate decision making body if they are satisfied after considering a written report by the appropriate officer that the waiver is justified because:
  - 5.8.1 the nature of the market for the works to be carried out or the supplies or services to be provided has been investigated and is demonstrated to be such that a departure from the requirements of Contract Procedure Rules is justifiable; or

- 5.8.2 the contract is for works, supplies or services that are required in circumstances of extreme urgency that could not reasonably have been foreseen; or
- 5.8.3 the circumstances of the proposed contract are covered by legislative exemptions (whether under EU or English Law); or
- 5.8.4 there are other circumstances which are genuinely exceptional.

This report seeks waiver of the Contract Procedure Rule on the basis that 5.8.4 is met.

## **9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 9.1 The Early Intervention and Prevention Team in Barnet Children's Service has commissioned early intervention and prevention services through contracts for £1,300,000 per annum. The commissioning process was an open and competitive process for the award £1,429,720 over an 18 month period.
- 9.2 The tender notice was advertised nationally on a variety of online portals: fundingcentral.org.uk, Tendermatch and Bipsolutions, as well as locally through Community Barnet website, Barnet Council web site, Barnet Press and Hendon Times.
- 9.3 A fair and transparent due process was followed. The tender process operated three stages of evaluation:
  - 1. Pre-Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ)  
This stage reviewed each applicant's three most recent years of audited accounts, relevant experience, policies and procedures, five year plans of the organisation. This stage checked the due diligence of the organisations around the financial and governance processes. 38 organisations submitted a Pre Qualifying Questionnaire.
  - 2. Invitation to Tender (ITT)  
At this stage organisations detailed the scope of their work as outlined in the project specification (Background paper 10.1) The application was scored 60% for Quality and 40% for Price. The quality scores measured the organisations capacity to deliver services by 1 October 2011; meeting our Barnet priorities and identifying realistic and measurable outcomes. The service providers were scored on the age bands of children served and hard to reach groups (religious/cultural needs). This was to ensure services were distributed to meet the 0-19 age group (up to 25 with disability) agenda and meet our cultural and diverse community. Tenders were grouped into target groups (as highlighted in the project specification) of their service to ensure all target themes were met. The target groups were arranged as:
    - 0 -5 Health & Development
    - Disability
    - Domestic Violence
    - Family Support Programmes
    - Mental Health
    - Welfare Rights
    - Sector Development/Training
    - Young Carers
    - Youth

There were 47 applications (value of £6.3m) as some organisations had put in multiple applications. Three applications were rejected due to non-compliance.

Scores were averaged within the group and tenders that scored below the average tender group were not progressed through to the next stage. Please note that some target groups only had one tenderer within the group. The scope of the commissioning process was to ensure all target themes and age bands met the key priorities and objectives of the Children and Young People's Plan 2010/11-2012/13.

Applicants that met the average mark were progressed to the interview stage, see grid below.

Target themes	Price (40%)	Quality Input (20%)	Quality Output (30%)	Quality Outcome (30%)	Quality Impact (20%)	Total Quality score	Total Quality 60% (weighted)	Total score for Price & Quality	0-5 age band (1 point)	5-11 age band (1 point)	11-19 age band (1 point)	19 to 25 age band (1 point)	Hard to reach (cultural/faith) 2 pts	Age & Hard to reach score	Final scores	Value of tender application	Interview stage	Outcome of Interview stage	Final award
<b>0-5 Health and Development</b>																			
Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust																			
Option A	4.56	5.20	3.60	1.80	3.20	13.80	8.28	12.84						1.00	13.84	£217,000.00	Yes	Successful	£131,750
Option B	4.56	5.20	3.60	1.80	3.20	13.80	8.28	12.84						1.00	13.84	£246,247.00	Yes	Not successful	£0
<b>Disability</b>																			
Tender B	47.54	6.80	3.60	5.40	3.20	19.00	11.40	58.94						2.00	60.94	£164,200.00	Yes	Not successful	£0
Tender C	45.52	3.20	3.60	4.80	3.20	14.80	8.88	54.40	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	56.40	£202,393.00	Yes	Not successful	£0
IPOP 3 Mobile sensory equip	42.41	5.20	2.40	2.40	2.00	12.00	7.20	49.61	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	51.61	£16,742.50	Yes	Successful	£15,810
Barnet Mencap	38.81	3.60	2.40	2.40	1.20	9.60	5.76	44.57	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	46.57	£84,573.00	Yes	Successful	£75,500
IPOP 1 Saturday Scheme	30.82	4.80	3.00	4.20	2.00	14.00	8.40	39.22	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	40.22	£43,766.00	Yes	Successful	£37,700
IPOP 2 Developing Youth Services	26.36	5.60	4.80	4.80	2.80	18.00	10.80	37.16	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	39.16	£123,326.00	Yes	Successful	£80,270
Tender D	15.04	6.00	3.60	3.60	3.20	16.40	9.84	24.88	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	28.88	£203,166.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender E	-62.91	4.40	3.60	3.60	0.00	11.60	6.96	-55.95	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	-54.95	£206,067.00	No	N/A	£0
<b>Domestic Violence</b>																			
Tender F	48.65	2.40	4.20	3.60	2.80	13.00	7.80	56.45	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	60.45	£248,695.00	Yes	Not successful	£0
Tender G	-60.50	6.00	4.20	4.20	3.20	17.60	10.56	-49.94	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	-45.94	£150,000.00	No	N/A	£0
<b>Family Support Programmes</b>																			
Tender H	41.93	6.00	4.20	4.20	2.40	16.80	10.08	52.01	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	56.01	£90,320.00	Yes	Not successful	£0
Tender I	39.34	5.60	4.80	3.60	2.40	16.40	9.84	49.18	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	51.18	£77,782.80	Yes	Not successful	£0
Home-Start	29.74	5.60	4.80	4.80	2.80	18.00	10.80	40.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	41.54	£176,200.00	Yes	Successful	£149,540
Community Barnet, Barnet Community Parenting Consortium	19.74	7.20	5.40	5.40	3.60	21.60	12.96	32.70	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	6.00	38.70	£111,640.00	Yes	Successful	£64,220
Norwood consortium Kisharon, Ezer NW	19.51	6.80	3.60	4.80	3.20	18.40	11.04	30.55	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	6.00	36.55	£249,101.00	Yes	Successful	£87,830
Tender J	26.92	4.00	3.00	3.60	3.60	14.20	8.52	35.44	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	36.44	£101,112.00	Yes	Not successful	£0
Tender K	12.77	6.80	3.60	4.20	2.40	17.00	10.20	22.97	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	26.97	£44,800.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender L	10.66	4.40	3.60	2.40	3.20	13.60	8.16	18.82	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	4.00	22.82	£250,000.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender M	10.66	4.40	3.60	2.40	3.20	13.60	8.16	18.82	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	19.82	£250,000.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender N	1.68	2.40	1.80	1.80	2.00	8.00	4.80	6.48	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	8.48	£246,996.00	No	N/A	£0
<b>Mental Health</b>																			
Tender O	40.59	5.60	3.60	3.00	3.20	15.40	9.24	49.83	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	50.83	£159,520.00	Yes	Not successful	£0
Tender P	9.81	4.40	3.60	3.60	0.00	11.60	6.96	16.77	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	17.77	£249,499.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender Q	-4.10	4.40	4.20	3.00	2.80	14.40	8.64	4.54	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	5.54	£29,652.00	No	N/A	£0
<b>Welfare Rights</b>																			
Barnet CAB	22.20	4.00	3.60	2.40	2.40	12.40	7.44	29.64	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	32.64	£84,000.00	Yes	Successful	£37,700
<b>Sector development/Training/Support</b>																			
Barnet Play Association (2)	54.58	4.00	4.20	3.00	2.80	14.00	8.40	62.98	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	65.98	£77,625.00	Yes	Successful	£40,600
Barnet Play Association (1)	50.84	8.00	4.20	1.80	2.80	16.80	10.08	60.92	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	61.92	£56,030.00	Yes	Successful	£0
BPSLA (1) (£249,962) pre-school & Parent	41.10	4.80	4.80	4.20	1.60	15.40	9.24	50.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	51.34	£249,962.15	Yes	Successful	£182,390
IPOP 4 Developing Inclusive Play	27.43	5.20	4.20	3.60	2.80	15.80	9.48	36.91	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	39.91	£110,754.00	Yes	Successful	£68,940
Tender R	14.66	6.40	5.40	5.40	2.40	19.60	11.76	26.42	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	27.42	£22,500.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender S	13.00	3.20	3.00	1.80	0.80	8.80	5.28	18.28	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	19.28	£97,141.70	No	N/A	£0
<b>Young Carers</b>																			
Barnet Carers (2) - home visits, activities, school liaison	51.44	7.20	3.60	3.60	1.60	16.00	9.60	61.04	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	64.04	£230,065.00	Yes	Successful	£151,100
Barnet Carers (1) - Time 4 Us	29.62	8.00	4.80	4.80	2.40	20.00	12.00	41.62	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	43.62	£68,888.00	Yes	Successful	£40,600
<b>Youth</b>																			
OYA with BRITSOM	48.86	5.20	6.00	6.00	3.20	20.40	12.24	61.10	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	4.00	65.10	£88,410.00	Yes	Successful	£37,780
Tender T	46.65	3.60	4.20	4.20	2.80	14.80	8.88	55.53	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	56.53	£104,807.00	Yes	Not successful	£0
Tender U	41.46	4.00	3.00	3.60	2.00	12.60	7.56	49.02	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	50.02	£249,264.69	Yes	Not successful	£0
Tender V	32.24	5.20	3.60	3.60	1.60	14.00	8.40	40.64	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	3.00	43.64	£45,000.00	Yes	Not successful	£0
Barnet Play Association (3)	24.73	8.00	6.00	6.00	4.00	24.00	14.40	39.13	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	42.13	£176,769.00	Yes	Successful	£136,940
Hornsey YMCA	19.04	4.40	4.80	4.20	1.60	15.00	9.00	28.04	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	3.00	31.04	£245,222.00	Yes	Successful	£75,550
Tender W	13.78	3.20	3.00	1.20	2.00	9.40	5.64	19.42	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	21.42	£20,000.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender X	5.63	5.60	5.40	5.40	2.80	19.20	11.52	17.15	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	18.15	£206,745.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender Y	-4.04	4.40	3.60	3.60	3.20	14.80	8.88	4.84	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	6.84	£94,750.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender Z	-4.10	4.40	4.20	3.00	2.80	14.40	8.64	4.54	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	5.54	£29,652.00	No	N/A	£0
Tender AA	-16.48	6.00	5.40	5.40	3.20	20.00	12.00	-4.48	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	-2.48	£90,300.00	No	N/A	£0
Total Values																£6,290,683.84			£1,414,220

- Please note the difference in the value of the tender application and final award is due to scaling back of some of the services within the tenderers application due to Barnet Council managing the contract value within the constraints of £1,439,720 (comprising of the £1,350,000, £64,220 and £25,500 funding identified in 6.1)

### 3. Interviews

#### Presentation and questions

The aspects tested for stages one and two were further examined through personal interviews with prospective providers. The interview panel was made up of senior managers within Children's Service. 28 applications (value of £4.099m) were interviewed.

Following this process the following organisations have been successful:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award value</b>
Barnet Citizen's Advice Bureau	£ 37,700
Barnet Carers Time 4 Us project	£ 40,600
Barnet Carers (core service)	£151,100
Barnet Mencap	£ 75,500
Barnet Play Association Quality in Play	£ 40,600
Barnet Play Association Play Rangers	£136,940
Barnet Pre-School Learning Alliance	£182,390
Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust	£131,750
Home-Start	£149,540
Hornsey YMCA	£ 75,550
IPOP Saturday Scheme	£ 37,700
IPOP Developing Youth Services	£ 80,270
IPOP Mobile Sensory Equipment	£ 15,810
IPOP Developing Inclusive Play	£ 68,940
Norwood Consortium	£ 87,830
Organisation of Young Africans with Britsom	£ 37,780
Community Barnet Parenting Consortium	£ 64,220 *
Provider to be identified	
Domestic Violence (low risk) Services	£25,500

The contracts will be agreed for the period 1 November 2011 – 31 March 2013.

## 10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

### 10.1 Project Specification

Legal: PD

Finance: MC

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\* This service will be funded by the Family Focus budget



**London Borough of Barnet**  
**Early Intervention and Prevention**  
**(formerly Building Resilience and Supporting Independence (BRSI))**

**Invitation to Tender**

Tender Reference Number: 50349

**Detailed Project Specification**  
**Early Intervention and Prevention Services 2011 - 2013**

**Purpose**

The EIP (Early Intervention and Prevention) team within Barnet Children's Service is seeking a number of service providers for the provision of successful and cost-effective evidenced based early intervention and prevention services. The specific services are for 0-19 year olds and up to 25 year olds with disabilities, funded by the Early Intervention Grant. The services for consideration will contribute towards the priorities of:

- Barnet Children and Young People Plan 2010 -2013 ( which can be viewed on line at [www.barnet.gov.uk/chypf-key-documents](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/chypf-key-documents))
- Barnet's Corporate Plan 2010 – 2013.

**Value**

Overall funding available (1 October 2011- 31 March 2013): **circa £1,275,000**

Minimum contract value: **£20,000**

Maximum contract value: **£250,000**

The Council reserves the right to reduce the amount of funding available should this tender not result in meeting all the priorities the Council has set.

**Who can apply?**

The second stage of the tender, the Invitation to Tender, is for organisations that have successfully completed the pre-qualifying questionnaire and have been invited to tender.

**Contact details:**

Usha Chadha  
Grant Monitoring and Evaluation Officer  
Tel: 020 8359 6267  
Email: [usha.chadha@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:usha.chadha@barnet.gov.uk)

Leela Chaduvu  
Project Support Officer  
Tel: 020 8359 7617  
Email: [leela.chaduvu@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:leela.chaduvu@barnet.gov.uk)

**Key dates:**

Shortlisted organisations Invited to Tender:	20 May 2011
Deadline for submission of tenders:	17 June 2011
Contract awards:	12 August 2011
Contracts commence:	1 October 2011
Funding permitted until:	31 March 2013

## **Background**

Barnet Children's Service aims to shift the emphasis of services from reactive to preventative; targeting more resources at preventing children from requiring higher level interventions. The EIP Team within Barnet Children's Service will be tendering for early intervention and prevention services for children and young people to be delivered across the four learning network areas in Barnet.

## **Key Bidder Requirements**

All project proposals will be expected to meet:

- a) Barnet's priority outcomes in Part A
- b) general service requirements in Part B section 1; and
- c) one or several target themes in Part B section 2. (your project proposal may cut across several target themes; all target themes are to be listed in box 5 on page one of the ITT Questionnaire)

## **Part A – Priority Outcomes**

The services for consideration will contribute towards the key priorities and objectives as listed below:

- 'intervene early to strengthen families;
- 'ensure the early identification of children and families to enable appropriate preventative interventions through the Common Assessment Framework' (CAF);
- 'ensure every child has a good start to life by providing access to high quality early years provision and support';
- Refocus work around early years standards to ensure appropriate support, training and challenge, helping to narrow attainment gaps;
- 'effectively manage and use data';
- 'promote access for all children and young people to positive activities';
- 'reduce economic disadvantage through tackling child poverty:
  - a) Ensuring access to affordable and suitable childcare
  - b) Supporting parents to build confidence and skills
  - c) Addressing health, including mental health, both as a cause and consequence of poverty'
- 'develop the social and emotional bedrock upon which children and young people can thrive'.

Barnet Children's Service is committed to ensuring that all children and young people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability or other differences are able to access opportunities and activities, and are enabled to achieve their potential.

Barnet Children's Service will build on the experience and understanding gained from funding a range of local services in recent years to procure a targeted set of services delivered through Children's Centres, Schools and other children and young people's settings. Strong families and communities are the key to supporting children and young people. The focus of these services will be on prevention and early intervention, ensuring that those families in greatest need receive targeted support and advice early enough to help improve outcomes for their children.

Barnet Children's Service believes this approach will have significant benefits in terms of social and economic outcomes, cost savings to the public purse, reduction in avoidable contact with more expensive higher level services and later stage intervention programmes.

In addition to the key priorities, future service providers should demonstrate how they will improve the life chances of children and young people who are living in families where there are issues of:

- Family Conflict
- Domestic Violence
- Poor Mental Health
- Substance Misuse
- Crime
- Disability
- Teenage parents
- Poverty
- Young carers
- Poor access to specialist health services and other specialist support

## **Part B - Service Requirements and Target Themes:**

### **Section 1 - GENERAL**

- High quality targeted support to families, children and young people, aged 0-19 (up to 25 with disabilities);
- Commitment to initiate, act as Lead Professional and review the Common Assessment Framework (CAF);
- Prompt referrals for safeguarding and child protection/vulnerable adult concerns
- Support for families to resolve their issues at an early stage;
- Promote access to universal services;
- Services to be delivered for Barnet residents and children attending educational settings;
- Signposting for families to access appropriate services, including Sure Start Children's Centres and extended services in and around schools, family intervention and parenting services, health services and other local services;
- Prevention of further escalation of issues that would require intensive intervention;
- Services that deliver value for money for Barnet residents;
- Evidence-based services that can demonstrate the difference made to children, young people and families.

In all cases, services should ensure equality of opportunity and accessibility, for example, to Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and people with disabilities.

### **Section 2 - TARGET THEMES**

- **Family Conflict**  
Intervene early to strengthen families:
  - targeted support for hard-to-reach families to recognise the impact of strained parental relationships or parental separation;
  - targeted support for hard-to-reach children and young people to help cope with conflict within families;
  - support for families to help prevent the escalation of potential issues arising from relationship conflict.

- **Domestic Violence**

Ensure the early identification of children and families below the threshold of social care to enable appropriate preventative interventions through the Common Assessment Framework through:

- therapeutic support and specialist counselling for hard-to-reach children and young people and their families to prevent the escalation of potential issues such as school absence, low self-esteem, fear, isolation, substance misuse and self-harm;
- parenting Programmes recognising the impact of domestic violence;
- targeted support from fathers workers around positive male role model;
- support for teenagers to develop positive and non-abusive relationships.

- **Poor Mental Health**

Develop the social and emotional bedrock upon which children and young people can thrive by offering:

- training to practitioners working with children and young people to improve the early identification of mental health issues;
- innovative and targeted support for children and young people (either one- to-one or group) to address mental health issues;
- support to families with children affected by mental health issues.

- **Substance Misuse**

To ensure the early identification of substance misuse within the families in particular with children and young people by:

- services for children and young people affected by parental substance misuse;
- services for children and young people who are affected themselves by substance misuse;
- support to families with children affected by substance misuse.

- **Crime**

Promote access for all children and young people to positive activities by:

- offering innovative methods of engaging with children and young people at risk of committing crime;
- enabling all settings that work with children and young people to intervene early to prevent crime.

- **Disability**

Promote access for all children and young people to positive activities by:

- providing positive activities for children and young people with a disability (0-25);
- increasing take-up of childcare for children with disabilities
- promoting inclusion;
- training practitioners to promote inclusion and awareness;
- providing positive activities for siblings of children and young people with a disability;
- supporting families caring for a children and young people with a disability.

- **Teenage parents**

Develop the social and emotional bedrock upon which children and young people can thrive by:

- guidance, information and advice to teenage parents;
- practical parenting support to teenage parents.

- **Poverty**

Reduce economic disadvantage through tackling child poverty, and improve the lives of families suffering economic disadvantage by:

- supporting parents to build confidence and skills to enter the workplace;
- working with job-focused agencies and statutory bodies to enhance Employability;
- addressing health, including mental health, both as a cause and consequence of poverty;
- increasing take-up of formal childcare;
- increasing take-up of working tax credits (the childcare element).

- **Young carers**

Identifying, engaging and working with young carers by offering:

- information and support to schools to raise awareness of young carers' issues;
- practical support and information, advice and guidance for young carers to help them manage their caring responsibilities;
- counselling for young carers to help them manage their own lives;
- positive activities to allow young carers to have time away from their caring responsibilities.

- **Poor access to Health Services and other specialist Support**

Ensuring the early identification of children and families with specialist needs by:

- supporting the development of settings working with children and young people to improve the identification of health, language development and emotional needs;
- providing specialist support to children and young people with poor communication skills (speech and language development).

- **Quality in the early years settings**

Refocus work around early years standards to ensure appropriate support, training and challenge, helping to narrow attainment gaps by:

- providing quality training and information to the Private, Voluntary and independent workforce;
- support pre-school settings in delivering a quality service and improving self-sustainability;

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### **The next stage of the process**

For full instructions on how to submit your bid, please refer to 'Invitation to Tender (ITT) Instructions' accompanying this document.

Bidding organisations are required to include at the ITT stage:

- a detailed contract profile listing the activities that will be carried out, by whom and by when; bidders are expected to show accountability;
- detailed cost breakdown of the activities/programmes;
- a detailed plan of resources linked to milestones and deliverables; this will be subject to agreement before contracts are awarded;
- a detailed list of outcomes explaining how these will be measured;
- an accurate explanation of what difference the service will make to children, young people and families in Barnet;
- additional completed tender documentation included within this ITT;
- Services are expected to be operational and made available to families from 1 October 2011 and bidders will be expected to explain how they will achieve this in their tenders.

### **Important notes to tenderer**

- **Please ensure you do not exceed the word limit in each box, being as concise as possible in your answers.**
- **Please specify which priority/objectives will be met in your bid (see page 1: 'Barnet priorities')**
- **Please specify the target themes your project will address, and how your organisation intends to address them.**
- **Please ensure that your answers explicitly outline project costs and delivery timelines.**
- **Please note that if your tender is successful, your service descriptions and cost breakdowns will be incorporated to a contract document prior to services commencing**

Once the ITT Questionnaire has been evaluated bidders will be short listed and invited to interview where they will make a presentation to the Evaluation Team. Post interview, there will be a tender clarification session.

Contracts are expected to commence on 1 October 2011 and cease on 31 March 2013 (subject to funding), although the Council reserves the right, subject to the satisfactory performance of the future service provider, budget availability and policy intent, to extend the contract for further periods of one month or multiples thereof up to a maximum of nine months.