

Summary Delegated Powers Report

TITLE	The Provision of a Children’s Service Special Transport Service
DATE OF DECISION	09 March 2015
DECISION TAKER	Jo Pymont - Assistant Director of Children's Social Care
SUMMARY OF DECISION	<p>Summary This report seeks approval to award a contract with £75,000 for the provision of a Special Transport Service. The contract will commence from 04 May 2015 and will continue under Local Authority specific statutory powers. The contract will be terminated with one month’s notice.</p> <p>Corporate priorities and policy considerations Section 9 of the Children’s and young person Act 2008 inserts a section 22G in the Children’s Act 1989. The new section imposes upon the local authority a general duty to provide secure transport to safe/secure accommodation for children under the local authorities’ protection.</p> <p>Barnet believes all children and young people should have the opportunity to achieve their potential, to enable them to become successful adults.</p> <p>The Council’s strategic objectives include supporting families and individuals that need it; promoting independence, learning and well-being. In seeking to achieve this objective, we aim to create better life chances for children and young people across the borough.</p> <p>A key cross cutting priority of Barnet’s Children and Young People Plan for those children who become looked after is Keeping Children and Young People Safe; Protecting children at risk of harm and supporting them to achieve their potential. We seek to Target Resources to Narrow the Gap, to support children and young people to achieve at least as well as their peers and to focus on preparing young people for adulthood.</p> <p>Section 104 LASPO Act 2012 states that where a young person is remanded to youth detention accommodation, they are to become looked after. This means that if they are remanded they require the same support as any other looked after child. These young people may also become eligible for leaving care services</p>

Risk management issues

If the contract is not awarded, there will be there will be an increased risk young people with complex needs not being offered the required integrated support in order to achieve their maximum potential.

Equalities and diversities issues

The procurement process was followed in accordance with the Corporate Procurement Code of Practice, ensuring that successful bidders abide by the London Borough of Barnet's Equalities Policy and keep abreast of equality and diversity issues. Providers are expected to meet the needs of children from diverse backgrounds and have expertise working with families and children from minority ethnic backgrounds and those with special educational needs. Providers are required to ensure the implementation of the Council's Equalities Policies in relation to all aspects of service delivery and employment and to promote and implement departmental policies, procedures, practices principles and quality standards.

Finance

Contracts are to be awarded for a three year period with the option to extend for a further one year for the provision of this service. The anticipated start date is 04 May 2015.

The value of the contract is £25,000 per annum from 04 May 2015, thus on a 3+1 contract the lifetime value to 31 March 2019 is £100,000. Spend will be contained within agreed Delivery Unit budgets.

Procurement

The procurement exercise has been conducted in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules.

There were two lots as part of the contract agreement:

The London Borough of Barnet (hereinafter referred to as the "Authority"), seeks to award contracts for two Lots:

1. Lot 1 – London Based Special Transport Service Including Greater London
2. Lot 2 – Outside Greater London Based Special Transport Service

There were two bidders for this contract.

The evaluation process was based on the Most Economically Advantageous Tender with a split of 50% quality and 50% price. Evaluations concluded with the contract being awarded to Wrixons Ltd for both Lots 1 and 2.

	<p>Value for Money The purchase of Children’s Service Special Transport Service and the Council has specific statutory duty secure a transport service. This support will enable the Council to better meet its statutory duties, improve future decisions for similar cases and build confidence and competence within the team. The services will also provide value for money through skills and capacity building within the team, leading to a reduced need for specialist support in the long term.</p> <p>Legal issues A written contract, which complies with the provisions specified by the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules, will be drawn up and executed on behalf of the parties.</p> <p>Constitutional powers / delegated power being exercised The Council’s Contract Procedure Rules allow for this process to be followed for this placement.</p>
<p>AUDIT TRAIL OF DECISION – RETAINED AND WHERE?</p>	<p>Audit trail retained in the Placement Team</p>