

	<p>ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY OFFICER 30th November 2015</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Authorisation to procure external support to assess delivery models for services to children and families</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Commissioning Director Children and Young People</p>
<p>Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Jamie Masraff – Interim Head of Programmes: 020 8359 4792 jamie.masraff@barnet.gov.uk</p>

Summary

This report seeks permission to procure a third-party specialist organisation to identify the most appropriate whole-service delivery model for the Family Services Delivery Unit and develop a clear path to putting it in place, following the Council’s internal governance model and project management methodology.

The successful bidder will be expected to work with the Council to develop a strategic outline case, outline business case and full business case setting out a clear evidence base behind a recommended model for the delivery of these services. This will include supporting public and employee consultation, the production of an equalities impact analysis and other activities as noted in Barnet’s project management methodology.

Decisions

To authorise the procurement exercise for external support to assess alternative delivery models for the Family Services Delivery Unit, which includes early years, youth, preventative and social care services.

The total cost will be less than £170,000 and will be funded from existing transformation funding already allocated to the Commissioning Director Children and Young People.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 On 13th October, the Strategic Commissioning Board (SCB) considered the outcomes of a strategic analysis considering the opportunities for Barnet in terms of:
- Prevention and Demand Management through innovation
 - Using freedoms and flexibilities enshrined in legislation
 - A review of approaches to Alternative Delivery Models
- 1.2 As a result of this report, SCB approved the recommendation to develop a business case for a Barnet-only, whole-service alternative delivery model, including all early years, youth, preventative and social care services.
- 1.3 On 18th November, the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding (CELS) Committee, as part of its approval for the Annual Business Planning paper, decided that work should commence to explore the opportunities for and support required for the development of a children's services led, non-for-profit organisation (like a charitable trust, mutual, care trust or Community Interest Company) to provide our services for children and young people as an alternative to maintaining the service in-house.
- 1.4 This external support is required to develop a detailed evidence base exploring the case for possible different models for the delivery of family services. This external support will work with and draw on the ideas of staff both within the Delivery Unit and Commissioning Group. However, expert, external support is required – both to develop an objective evidence base for all options, including consideration of retaining the in-house model, and to ensure that best practice from the wider sector is fully considered.
- 1.5 This work will follow the Council's internal governance model and project management methodology. In particular an Outline Business Case and then Full Business Case will be presented to CELS to seek approval to proceed to a recommended new model for the delivery of these services.

2. REASONS FOR DECISIONS

- 2.1 Barnet Council wants to commission an expert independent organisation to lead the development of this business case to ensure both an objective assessment of all options and that this is informed by best practice from the wider sector.
- 2.2 To deliver a compliant contract in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules a quotation exercise is required to be released through Barnet's procurement portal. Authorisation to procure is required to enable the release of quotation documents. Assessment of suitable frameworks will be undertaken to confirm best route to market which will meet the priorities of the project. Should it be determined that framework call-off meets the requirement this will be undertaken.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 3.1 The option to develop the business case in-house, either within the Commissioning Group or Family Services Delivery Unit, has been considered but rejected. This is on the basis that the Council does not possess the specialist knowledge of what has worked in other local authorities to fully consider the various options that are available.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The quotation exercise is to commence in the week commencing 30th November 2015 in order to allow a suitable provider to be appointed before the end of the calendar year. A minimum of 2 written competitive quotations will need to be received to allow a provider to be appointed.
- 4.2 Once a suitable provider has been appointed, they will be expected to commence work on site in January 2016.
- 4.3 The provider will be expected to develop clear and compliant business cases, with the expectation that an outline business case will be ready for consideration at CELS in Spring 2016.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.1.1 The requirement is beneath OJEU threshold for services, £172,514 however Contract Procedure Rules Appendix 1 Table A thresholds requires that a minimum of 2 written competitive quotations are received.
- 5.1.2 The cost, which will be less than £170,000, will be funded from existing transformation budget allocated to the Commissioning Director for Children and Young People.

5.2 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.2.1 The commissioning of this work will be carried out in accordance with Barnet Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- 5.3.2 In accordance with the Constitution, Article 22 (Contract Procedure Rules), paragraph 17 of Appendix 1 (Table A), a Director or Assistant Director may provide authorisation to seek quotations for the provision of services where the value is between £25,001 and £172,514. The authorisation documentation is a Full Officer DPR or inclusion on the Forward Plan.

- 5.2.3 Article 22 of the Constitution (Contract Procedure Rules), paragraph 12.1, requires every contract to be in a form approved by the Monitoring Officer (in consultation with HB Public Law)
- 5.2.4 Article 22 of the Constitution (Contract Procedure Rules), paragraph 17, Appendix 1 (Table A) confirms that a Director or Assistant Director, acting in accordance with the directorate scheme of delegation, being an “Approved Officer” may accept a quotation to award a contract of this value by way of a Summary DPR. Therefore, the Commissioning Director – Children and Young People has the delegated authority to commence authorise this process.
- 5.2.5 As requested in Appendix A, Contract Procedure Rules, once a provider has been confirmed by means of a competitive procurement process, the contract award will be confirmed and published in a Summary DPR’.
- 5.2.6 Full public consultation will be required to inform the business case and will be undertaken as part of this project.

5.3 Risk Management

- 5.3.1 Given the considerable risks around changes to the delivery models of these services, the Council will seek additional independent advice to review the compliance and achievability of whatever recommended option is proposed. This is likely to involve both legal advice and an independent review of risk against the legislative framework.

5.4 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.4.1 The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty outlined at section 149, require the council and all other organisations exercising public functions on its behalf to pay due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advance equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; promote good relations between those with a protected characteristic and those without. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. It also covers marriage and civil partnership with regard to eliminating discrimination.
- 5.4.2 A full Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) and Needs Assessment will be carried out once an external partner has been appointed and a new project established.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Annual Business Planning paper approved at CELS Committee on 18th November, 2015:

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s27441/Annual%20Business%20Planning.pdf>

7. DECISION TAKER'S STATEMENT

- 7.1 *I have the required powers to make the decision documented in this report. I am responsible for the report's content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision making framework of the organisation which includes Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations.*

8. OFFICER'S DECISION

I authorise the following action

- 8.1 The procurement exercise to seek quotations for external support to assess alternative delivery models for services to children and families.
- 8.2 The value will be up to £170,000 and will be found from existing transformation budgets for Children and Family Services.

Signed



Commissioning Director (Children and Young People)

Date

30/11/2015
