

	<b>CHIEF OFFICER IN CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DELEGATED POWERS REPORT</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Domestic Abuse services – LOT 3 Perpetrator services and assessments award of contract</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chris Munday – Executive Director Children and Family services
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Clare Slater-Robins, Senior CYP Commissioner. <a href="mailto:Clare.slater-robins@barnet.gov.uk">Clare.slater-robins@barnet.gov.uk</a>

## Summary

1. The original term of these contracts was for a three-year period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019 followed by a 12-month extension period, specified in the original procurement and contracts, from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The contracts were then extended further via a single tender action authorised by Full (Chief Officer in consultation with Theme Committee Chairman) DPR up to 31 August 2021.
2. Following a failed procurement, the contract was further extended to 31 December 2022 due to the essential nature of the services, the need to continue services during the Coronavirus pandemic and the need to plan the procurement.
3. In June 2022 the contract was put out to procurement and one bid from the incumbent provider was received.
4. Council procurement processes were followed and the bid was evaluated and moderated and awarded to RISE CiC for a period of 2 years and 3 months with the option of a 1 year extension at the councils discretion.

## **Decisions**

**To authorise the contract award of the VAWG domestic abuse perpetrator services and assessments contract to RISE Mutual CiC for a two year and three month period from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2025 (with an option to extend for a further 1 year) at an annual contract value of £148,978 (ex VAT) for the term.**

### **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 In order that the delivery of the essential services provided by this contract is not disrupted this report seeks authorisation to award the perpetrator services contract to RISE mutual CiC until 31 March 2025 (or 31.3.2026 if a 1 year extension is granted).

### **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Following extensions to the domestic abuse perpetrator services contracts until 31 December 2022, the services were put out to tender in June 2022.
- 2.2 On closure of the tender writing period 1 bid was received for the perpetrator services from the incumbent provider, RISE CiC.
- 2.3 These bids were evaluated and moderated according to procurement regulations and the councils contract procedure rules.
- 2.4 Following the moderation board where the independent panels evaluations scores were added and calculated together a recommendation to award the contract to RISE CiC has been made.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 To do nothing was considered but this would have meant that the service would have ceased. This is not an acceptable option considering the service provision is essential and their disruption could result in an increased risk of harm to victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse.

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Following approval, the contract will be awarded to RISE Mutual CiC and the mobilisation phase will begin to align the services to the new service specification and performance metrics.
- 4.2 Barnet council will work with the Legal representative and RISE Mutual CiC to issue the new contract for the term of the contract.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The Barnet Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2022 to 2025 sets out the vision for Barnet to be a borough where everyone can live free of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls.

- 5.1.2 The strategy sets out our partnership commitment following the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls, to improve the support and response for all victims and survivors in Barnet, and to hold perpetrators to account.

- 5.1.3 In Barnet we have developed 5 shared partnership objectives that we will all work towards to achieve the aims of the strategy, these are:

1. Early intervention and prevention of Domestic Abuse and VAWG
2. Support all victims and survivors to report, access help and recover
3. Pursue perpetrators and engage them in behaviour change interventions to eliminate harm to victims and their families
4. Strengthen the partnership response to improve multiagency working and information sharing to deliver improved outcomes
5. Working together for safer streets, community and public spaces.

##### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 The annual cost of the contract will be £148,978 (ex VAT) which is within the budget set for the period. The total contract value for the 2 years and 3 months is £335,201. Awarding the contract to the incumbent provider ensures value for money as no transitional costs will be incurred and they are already set up to deliver the services.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 Only one compliant tender was received (RISE CiC), The Council seeks to rely on Rule 6.2 (Single Tender Action) of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs), which states "*Where a competition has been undertaken and only a single bid has been received, the Director of Resources (S151 Officer) and Director Commercial & Customer Services can approve the award of a Contract, subject to an appropriate review being undertaken and an audit trail being available for inspection*". The Commercial Director and 151 Officer have been consulted as required.
- 5.3.2 Provided that the decision is within budget, in accordance with Table B of the Council's Constitution Contract Procedure Rules, the bid acceptance authorisation document is via an Officer Delegated Powers Report in line with the service designated Scheme of Delegation.

### **5.4 Insight**

- 5.4.1 This report is written within the context of the Councils Corporate plan 2019 – 2024 The Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy 2021 – 24 which underlines the partnership's commitment to working together to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

### **5.5 Social Value**

- 5.5.1.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission certain public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.
- 5.5.2 Services working together derive social capital from each other and this in turn supports a collaborative approach towards sustainability within an ever-changing economy.

### **5.6 Risk Management**

- 5.6.1 Risk management varies according to the different initiatives. The partnership and appropriate agencies are made aware of risks and actions to mitigate the risk are agreed and put in place. There is always risk that the partnership may not achieve the targets set due to factors outside its direct control – however there is strong partnership working in place enabling agencies to identify and highlight risk and be open to addressing the risk collectively.
- 5.6.2 Agreeing the direct award mitigates the risks to the Council of ceasing the contract and not providing the services.

### **5.7 Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public-sector equality duty to which the authority must have due regard. The Council's public-sector equality duty is set out in s149 of the Equality Act 2010:

5.7.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to —

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.7.3 The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation. The Barnet Safer Communities Strategy and the services delivered as part of this contract take into account the protected characteristics to ensure services are accessible and fair to all sections of the community.

## 5.8 Corporate Parenting

5.8.1 There are no implications for the London Borough of Barnet's corporate parenting responsibilities with this contract.

5.8.2 The domestic abuse VAWG services have responsibility to children in care who either are victims of domestic violence or enter care due to parental domestic abuse.

5.8.3 These services deliver preventative messages and support which benefit children in care.

## 5.9 Consultation and Engagement

5.9.1. The services detailed in this report support the delivery of the Barnet Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy. Extensive consultation was carried out during 2021 to support the development of the Barnet VAWG Strategy. Feedback from these consultations highlighted that service users wanted the process for accessing help, which can often involve multiple agencies, to be as straightforward and clear as possible with strong co-ordination between the agencies involved.

5.9.2. The quarterly VAWG Forum provides ongoing feedback from partner agencies and organisations on the implementation of the VAWG strategy.

## 6. Environmental Impact

There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

## 7. Background papers

Decision to extend contract by 7 months to September 2022 and procurement of contract.

[Decision - Authorisation to Extend the Existing Domestic Abuse Perpetrator and DV Risk Assessor Contracts with R.I.S.E. for a period of Seven Months Beyond the Existing Contract Terms \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Decision to extend the contract for a further 3 months to December 2022  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8789>

Signed: 

**Designation:** Chris Munday – Executive Director Children and Family Services

**Date:** 3 August 2022

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