

19 September 2022**Agenda Item: 1****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR FINANCE AND SECTION 151
OFFICER****PROCUREMENT OUTCOME UPDATE - UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKER
CHILDREN****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Cabinet Member for Finance on the recent outcome of a procurement process for a service to deliver support to unaccompanied asylum seeker children.

Information

2. Nottinghamshire County Council invited suitably qualified organisations or consortia to submit tenders to provide accommodation and support specifically for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) who are over the age of 16. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children who are over the age of 16 were offered accommodation and support as part of the general 16+ Supported Accommodation offer, whose contracts have now ceased.
3. A competitive procurement using an open process conducted in accordance with the Public Procurement 2015 Regulations was undertaken. The tender was advertised via the Council's tendering portal (eastmidstenders.org) as well as the national portal (Find a tender & Contracts finder).
4. The purpose of the Invitation to Tender (ITT) was to request Bidders to submit a tender with a view to identifying the most economically advantageous tender which best met the Council's requirements.
5. The service is required in the south of Nottinghamshire County in the boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling, and Rushcliffe, and should offer good transport links into Nottingham City. Units of accommodation may also be situated in the Nottingham City boundary.
6. The service will offer 8 units of core accommodation, including two emergency, or assessment beds that can be utilised for a maximum of 28 days. The remaining 6 core units will be allocated to those who are assessed as having higher emotional needs or lower independence skills.
7. There will also be a further 20 cluster units which may be self-contained or small shared houses.

8. Framework Housing Association was awarded the contract who met and exceeded the minimum quality level required. Framework Housing Association gained the overall highest score considering both the scores for quality and finance.
9. Framework Housing Association was the incumbent provider of the previous contracts for 16+ Supported Accommodation services which included support and accommodation for UASC within Nottinghamshire which ceased on 31 July 2022. The benefits were that Framework Housing Association already provided housing for UASC and only need to acquire four more units of accommodation in readiness for the new contract. Already providing the service meant consistency of the familiarity of staff for the UASC as they were already knowledgeable about the young people's specific needs.
10. The contract commenced on 01 August 2022 for a period of 5 years to 31 July 2027. There are three twenty-four-month extensions available.
11. The Home Office National Transfer Scheme (NTS) allocates funding to Local Authorities for each UASC coming to Nottinghamshire. The Council receives £1,001 per week, per NTS young person, with a further £798 for spontaneous arrivals and those coming in via the Adults Transfer Scheme, who are then determined to be aged under 18. There is a further £2,000 per month for three months for transfers undertaken within 5 days (previously 10 days but has recently been reviewed and updated).
12. The number of UASC expected each year into Nottinghamshire are 168. This figure has slightly increased as the Home Office have reviewed the quota for each Local Authority, which for Nottinghamshire is now 0.1% of the children population. There are currently 45 UASC in the County who are aged from 7 to 18.

Other Options Considered

13. Our 16+ services and support for UASC are a statutory requirement, and therefore a service must be provided.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. The 16+ Supported Accommodation contracts which offered support to UASC ended on the 31st of July 2022 and the Council had to recommission its services for this cohort of young people. It was determined to separate this support away from the main 16+ accommodation and support.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability, and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. A maximum budget £561,600 per annum is in place. It is anticipated that the budget will remain fixed for the first three years of the contract, however the budget may be subject to change due to the anticipated increase in the demand for the service in future years.

RECOMMENDATION

1) The Cabinet Member for Finance to acknowledge the outcome of the procurement exercise.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director for Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Lynn Brammer, Category Manager, Children and Family Services

Tel No: 0115 977 3060

Email: Lynn.brammer@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (CEH 08/09/2022)

17. This is an update to the Cabinet Member for Finance on procurement activity as Corporate Procurement falls within his remit.

Financial Comments (NC 23/08/22)

18. The annual budgeted costs of £561,600 will need to be covered by the UASC grant funding.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Broxtowe
- Gedling
- Rushcliffe