



**2 November 2020**

**Agenda Item: 6**

## **REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER - PROCUREMENT**

### **THE COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT SERVICES**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Committee of the Commissioning and Procurement of Domestic Abuse Support Services.

#### **Information**

2. The Support for Survivors of Domestic Abuse Contracts ceased on the 31/03/2020.
3. A steering group was set up in July 2019 to commission a new Domestic Abuse Support Service to replace the above previous Contract on the 01/04/2020. The steering group had representatives from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the County Council as the Contract would cover the requirements of both public sector bodies.
4. The scope of the service was to reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse in Nottinghamshire through the provision of appropriate services and support for women, men and children who are experiencing domestic abuse or whose lives have been adversely affected by domestic abuse.

#### **Commissioning Approach**

5. The market was well established in Nottinghamshire and the steering group had identified clear requirements for the service. Therefore an open tender approach under the Light Touch Regime of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 was the most appropriate route to tender the service.
6. There were different requirements in Nottinghamshire and the tender was split into three Lots each requiring a single provider under the terms of a Framework Agreement. A Framework Agreement allows for separate Call-Off Contracts to be established with different periods and values.
7. The Lots were specified as follows:
  - Lot 1 – Services in South Nottinghamshire (Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe)

- Lot 2 – Services in North Nottinghamshire (Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood and Mansfield)
- Lot 3 – Prevention, Promotion and Training Services (Countywide)

8. Each Lot had these initial Call-Off contracts specified:

Lot	Title	Fixed Term	Extension	Value Per Annum
Lot 1	Domestic Abuse Support Services in South Nottinghamshire: Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe	4 Years	Up To 4 Years	£580,000
Lot 1	Young People's Violence Advocate	1 Year	None	£40,000
Lot 2	Domestic Abuse Support Services in North Nottinghamshire: Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood and Mansfield	4 Years	Up To 4 Years	£580,000
Lot 2	Refuge Support Services in North Nottinghamshire	4 Years	Up To 4 Years	£174,852
Lot 2	Young People's Violence Advocate	1 Year	None	£40,000
Lot 3	Domestic Abuse Prevention, Service Promotion and Training	4 Years	Up To 4 Years	£20,000
Lot 3	Domestic Abuse Prevention, Service Promotion and Training – Children Affected by Domestic Abuse	1 Year	None	£35,000

### Timeline of the tender process

Stage	Description	Date(s)
Tender clarification stage	Period during which Bidders may raise clarifications on the ITT.	23 September to 12 noon 28 October 2019
Bidder Information Event	Opportunity for potential Bidders to learn more about the Framework and initial Call-off Contracts and tender process	2pm Monday 7 October 2019 County Hall Nottingham NG2 7QP
ITT Response Date	Date by which Bidders must compile their bids in the required format and submit them.	12 noon Monday 4 November 2019

Stage	Description	Date(s)
Evaluation stage	Period during which the Authority may wish to invite Bidders to meet in order to clarify aspects of tender submissions.	5 to 19 November 2019
Notification of evaluation outcome	After selection of any successful Bidder(s), the Authority will notify all Bidders of the outcome of the evaluation. A 10 days standstill period will commence from this date.	9 December 2019
Commencement Date	Framework active – ALL LOTS	1 April 2020
Commencement Date	<u>Call-Off Contracts</u> Lot 1 Call-Offs Reference 1A & 1B Lot 2 Call-Offs Reference 2A, 2B & 2C Lot 3 Call-Off Reference 3A Lot 3 Call-Off Reference 3B	1 April 2020 1 April 2020 1 April 2020 1 Sept 2020

9. There was a delay in issuing the Notification of Award due to a process of clarifying the submissions and receipt of Due Diligence information. The confirmation of award subject to the signature of the Contracts was on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**The awarded Providers were as follows:**

- Lot 1 Juno Women’s Aid
- Lot 2 Nottinghamshire Women’s Aid Limited
- Lot 3 Equation Nottinghamshire trading as Equation

**Savings and/or benefits from the tender process**

- All three successful Bidders are experienced local organisations and evaluators were very satisfied of their ability to deliver framework agreement call-off contracts.
- The number of Service Users to be supported that was bid under the price evaluation was in all cases at, or close to, the maximum specified by the Authority. Therefore all tenders offered good value for money and an increase in the indicative number of Service Users supported from that provided under the previous Contract and budget envelope.
- A set budget has been applied for the 4 year call-off Contracts with no inflationary increase.

- The establishment of a Framework Agreement provides greater flexibility to the Commissioners who will be able to purchase additional work as and when required, including pilot and other short term projects.
- The Framework Agreement has allowed for an additional call-off contract covering a 24 hour helpline.
- The initial call-off contracts included in the tender are subject to updated service specifications and monitoring requirements compared to those that were currently in place for the previous contracts. Clearer performance information is available, contributing to effective contract management.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

10. To allow Committee to consider whether there are any actions they require in relation to the information provided in this report.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. 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**

12. The indicative annual Public Health budget investing in the Domestic Abuse Support Service is £1,554,746.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

13. That Committee considers whether there are any actions they require in relation to the information provided in this report.

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### **Constitutional Comments (EP 17/09/2020)**

14. The Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required, it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (DG 15/09/20)**

15. The indicative annual Public Health budget investing in the Domestic Abuse Support Service is £1,554,746, which includes £84,894 for the countywide helpline, and a contribution from the Police and Crime Commissioner of £469,496. The balance is funded from the Public Health Grant.

### **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**

All.