

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

**Mike Hill,
Cabinet Member for Community Services**

DECISION NO:

16/00059

For publication

Subject: Procurement of Youth Services

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Community Services I agree to: award to

- (i) Agree that the contracts for the delivery of Youth Services across Kent be awarded on the terms and for the duration set out below and in the exempt appendix.
- (ii) The Head of Strategic Commissioning - Children's, will on behalf of the Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services, take all such steps as are necessary to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 The commissioned Youth Services provision was previously let by Kent County Council (KCC) through a dynamic purchasing arrangement (DPS) following a review of the in-house youth service provision in 2012. The DPS was chosen by KCC because it was recognised that the majority of youth work in Kent, and nationally, is delivered by SMEs (small to medium-sized enterprises) so using the DPS encouraged the engagement of the Voluntary Youth Sector in commissioning.
- 1.2 The DPS was set up in 2012 for a 3 year period with 49 contracts awarded to 22 providers under the DPS arrangement across all 12 districts via a mini-competitions process. Overall the DPS worked well to encourage the market place and the Council has built in the lessons learnt into the new procurement process to ensure:
 - Rationalisation of the current supply base
 - Development of partnership working with a fewer number of providers which will increase, improve and enhance delivery of service
 - Development of stronger contract management from 49 Contracts to 12 District Contracts
 - Strengthening of the delivery of outcomes and improved accountability
 - Increased efficiency of process and performance monitoring by including clear KPI's and Management Information requirements
 - Re-alignment of services to the most vulnerable areas
 - Enhancement of the opportunities for collaboration between Voluntary Youth Sector organisations
- 1.3 The contracts will be awarded for a term of 5 years. The contract start date is 1st December 2016.

The recommendation is based on the results of the tender evaluation exercise carried out by Strategic Commissioning (Children's) during the period 8th July 2016 to 18th July 2016. The process sought to identify the organisations that offered the Most Economically Advantageous Tender.

c. Financial Implications

The annual contract value for Youth Services is £1.2m per annum for 5 years.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee – 22 September 2016

Resolved that Cabinet Committee endorse the proposed decision of the Cabinet Member for Community Services:

- (a) To agree that the contracts for the delivery of commissioned youth services across Kent be awarded on the terms and for the duration set out in the report and exempt appendix; and
- (b) That the Head of Strategic Commissioning - Children's, would on behalf of the Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services take all such steps as are necessary to implement the decision.

Any alternatives considered:

Strategic Commissioning has undertaken a robust commissioning and procurement process on behalf of Early Help and Preventative Services for 12 District Youth Services. This will offer a range of open access youth services which will raise the aspirations of children and young people aged 8-25, with a focus on 8-12 and 13-19 year olds (and up to 24 for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities) in Kent.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

Signed



Date

28 September 2016