

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	15 March 2023
Title:	Children's Services Procurement – Approval to Spend
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to spend in relation to the Supporting Families framework call off contracts whose value will be over £2,000,000 threshold in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Constitution.
2. This report seeks to:
 - Give relevant information on the planned procurement activity for this service;
 - Give information on the value and council spend in relation to this service;
 - Request approval to spend in line with the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gives the approval to spend for the Supporting Families contracts under a framework to the value of £3,500,000.

Executive Summary

4. This report seeks to:
 - set out the background to the service;
 - detail the procurement route;
 - detail the contractual spend;
 - recommend approval.

Contextual information

5. Supporting Families is a nationally funded government programme. It requires local authorities to support and track families with multiple identified needs such as:
 - Getting a good education;

- Improved mental and physical health;
 - Promoting recovery and reducing harm from substance misuse;
 - Good early years development;
 - Financial stability;
 - Secure housing;
 - Improved family relationships;
 - Children safe from abuse and exploitation;
 - Safe from domestic abuse;
 - Crime prevention and tackling crime.
6. Hampshire County Council's Supporting Families Programme received funding totalling a maximum of £8.65m for the period of 2022 to 2025. The total funding is used to in Hampshire to support the programme in a variety of ways, this includes:
- a central Supporting Families team;
 - IT systems for monitoring and recording;
 - Local funding to deliver required outcomes (for example, this could include members of staff, bikes to support attendance at school/college, household goods);
 - Contribution towards other internal teams/projects to support families;
 - Externally commissioned services that this paper is requesting financial approval for.
7. The Supporting Families programme has used a proportion of the funding to enable the commissioning of an independent family support provision for ten years. The current contracts are due to end in 2023. It has been agreed by Children and Families branch that a framework should be tendered for a period of up to three years in line with the temporary nature of the funding available. The commissioned element of the Supporting Families Programme will engage with providers who can offer a tailored support package for families. The providers will:
- Support families with multiple and complex needs to build their resilience and ability to cope and avoid escalation (/re-escalation) to higher levels of support need;
 - Offer whole family, co-ordinated, support, ensuring all family support needs met and significant progress made to support sustained change;
 - All families to be allocated a lead professional working with the family to co-ordinate support;
 - Support and promote multi-agency working;
 - Development of the wider early help system within local communities;
 - Support in the provision of data and outcomes aligned to the Supporting Families programme expectations and develop the evidence base for early help services for families.
- The provider will be paid an attachment fee for each family they are asked to support and a reward grant is paid upon successful outcomes in order to ensure that progress made is significant and sustained.

8. Families receiving support via these providers often go on to be supported further through that organisation or through signposting to other organisations. This supports sustainment and reduces the risk of re-escalating to higher support needs in future.

Finance

9. Funding for this programme is from the Supporting Families government grant, ring fenced for this purpose.
10. The maximum value for the contracts under the three-year framework is £3.5m.

Performance

11. Performance will be measured against a number of Key Performance Indicators within the contract – these will focus on ensuring timely support provision for families, sustained engagement by families and the successful outcomes achieved.

Consultation and Equalities

12. Stakeholder engagement will be undertaken for each specific procurement exercise to ensure that services are designed effectively to meet need and are fit for purpose. This could involve service users, internal staff who place orders with the contract / framework such as social workers, officers from other local authorities, and health colleagues.
13. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this recommendation.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

14. Climate Change. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does. The carbon mitigation tool and climate change adaptation tool were both considered but were deemed not applicable to this report because the projects detailed within will not have a carbon emissions impact and are not vulnerable to climate change.

Other Key Issues

15. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires the Council as public authority 'to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in

connection with public services contracts'. The Social Value is either defined in the Service Specification for a contract, for example asking the provider to use apprentices or employ people from disadvantaged groups. Alternatively, during the tender process, the provider is asked how it adds Social Value to a service.

16. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires the Council to incorporate human rights due diligence within procurement practices and supply chains and establishing shared awareness and common goals with providers in tackling modern slavery.
17. The Council, as contracting authority, has an obligation to shape their tendering processes to allow small to medium businesses fair access to winning contracts.

Conclusions

18. It is recommended that the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services gives the approval to spend in relation the Supporting Families Call Off Contracts detailed whose aggregate value will be under £3,500,000.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	Yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	No
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	Yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Supporting Families Programme Guidance 2022 to 2025 (current): Supporting Families Programme guidance 2022 to 2025 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	April 2022
Supporting Families Programme Guidance 2021 to 2022 Supporting Families Programme guidance 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	March 2021
MHCLG Financial Framework for the Expanded Troubled Families Programme https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial/framework-for-the-troubled-families-programme-january-2018-onwards	January 2018
DCLG Supporting disadvantaged families Troubled Families Programme 2015-20: Progress so far https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/611991/Supporting_disadvantaged_families.pdf	April 2017

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Evaluation of Phase 2 of Hampshire's Supporting Troubled Families Programme (March 2019)	Hampshire County Council/Solent University

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessments.aspx?web=1>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- (a) *why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- (b) *will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*

2.1 An equalities impact assessment was completed by the SFP at the start of the programme planning in 2012. This highlighted that the programme may disproportionately impact upon families within particular age groups and families with women in the household due to the Government definition of a troubled family in Phase 1.

- 2.2 A further equalities impact assessment was undertaken at the start of Phase 2 in 2015 taking account of the extended criteria used to attach families which means the issue highlighted in 2.1 no longer applies. SFP is a supportive programme designed to improve the lives of some of Hampshire most troubled families and communities, and therefore the impact of the proposed SFP Spring Grants round is likely to be positive.
- 2.3 An equalities impact assessment will be completed as part of the commissioning process. It is not expected to result in significant changes to the findings within 2.2 as, although the programme criteria has been updated, the overarching programme is relatively unchanged. The focus of the programme (and this commissioned service) is on supporting families with children of any age with multiple and complex needs, regardless of other characteristics.