

CABINET MEMBER – 4 JANUARY 2011

AWARD OF CONTRACT INTEGRATED CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY THERAPIES SERVICE

Report by Director for Children Young People & Families

Introduction

1. The Local Authority has responsibilities to provide those therapies that are written into a child's statement of special educational needs. In 2009-2010, the Council and NHS Oxfordshire (PCT) jointly reviewed children's community therapy services. As part of this review consultations were carried out with service users, their parents and carers and health and education professionals.
2. The purpose of the review was to understand how therapy services fit within the bigger picture of children's services and to identify improvements to their commissioning and delivery including:
 - Improving outcomes for vulnerable children through delivery of an improved service model;
 - Commissioning an integrated care pathway;
 - Ensuring open and transparent contractual arrangements;
 - Improving governance arrangements;
 - Securing efficiency gains & improved financial arrangements.
3. The following services were included in the review
 - Children's community speech and language therapy;
 - Children's community physiotherapy;
 - Children's community occupational therapy including the Paediatric Assessment Service provided for CYPF by Social and Community Services under a Service Level Agreement.
4. The key message from the review was that services would deliver improved outcomes and achieve greater value for money if they were delivered as an integrated therapies service with a single referral and assessment process.
5. The Council and the PCT agreed to jointly procure this integrated service by means of a competitive tender for a 3-year contract to run from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014, with the option to extend for a further year.
6. In July 2010, the opportunity to bid for delivery of this service was advertised on Improvement and Efficiencies South East Business Portal and NHS Supply2Health website. Interested organisations were invited to submit Pre Qualifying Questionnaires (PQQ).

7. Following evaluation of the PQQs, only one organisation was identified as qualified to deliver the integrated service. This organisation was invited to submit its proposal for the delivery of the service.
8. Information on the proposed service and costs is contained in Annex 1 to this report

Exempt Information

9. Annex 1 contains information pertinent to negotiations in relation to the proposed contract.
10. The Public should therefore be excluded during the consideration of Annex 1 because its discussion in public would be likely to lead to disclosure to members of the public present of information in categories 3 and 4 prescribed by Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) These categories relate to:
 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information); and
 4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matters arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office-holders under the authority.
11. It is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that the Council would be prejudiced in negotiations between the authority and other parties for the purposes described and would prejudice the position of the authority in those negotiations and other negotiations of a similar nature in future, to the detriment of the Council's ability properly to discharge its fiduciary and other duties as a public authority

Financial and Staff Implications

12. These are set out in Annex 1

RECOMMENDATION

13. **The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families is RECOMMENDED to agree award of contract as set out in paragraph 1 of Annex 1 to this report for the provision of an Integrated Children's Community Therapies Service.**

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Background Papers: Nil

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