

Decision Maker: Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
Executive

Date: 4th September 2012
12th September 2012

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

Title: Supporting People Services Joint Framework Agreement

Contact Officer: Wendy Norman, Contracts and Compliance Manager Education and Care Services
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Chief Officer: Lorna Blackwood, Assistant Director Education and Care Services

Ward: Boroughwide.

1. Reason for report

This report outlines the benefits gained from membership of the Joint Framework Agreement with Southwark, Lewisham and Lambeth and seeks agreement to join the new Framework which will be established with effect from 1st April 2014.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 The Care Services PDS Committee is asked to consider and comment on the proposals contained in the report.

2.2 The Executive is recommended to:

- a) Consider any comments from the PDS Committee; and
- b) Approve that Bromley join the contract framework agreement for Supporting People Services which is being set up jointly by the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lewisham for a one off cost of £10k.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Supporting Independence
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost £10,000
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Supporting People Services 749
 4. Total current budget for this head: £4m
 5. Source of funding: Education and Care Services Department Budgets
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 1FTE
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 3000
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Supporting People programme funds housing related support to people who need some assistance to continue to live independently and to enable people to acquire the skills to move into their own tenancies and to sustain them. The programme benefits both people living in supported housing and those living in their own homes. The programme provides housing related support to prevent problems that can often lead to hospitalisation, 24 hour care or homelessness and can help the smooth transition to independent living for those leaving an institutionalised environment.
- 3.2 The Supporting People programme was originally funded through a ring fenced grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), but since 2011/12 the programme has been funded via the revenue support grant. Supporting People Services provided are not a statutory requirement and initially focussed on prevention of homelessness. During the last 2 years officers have reviewed the services provided and the scope of the programme has been reduced so that the services funded are cost effective means of meeting statutory obligations, for example tenancy support for homeless young people living in supported accommodation.
- 3.3 Lewisham and Southwark Councils set up a framework agreement for Supporting People services in 2010 and Bromley Council has participated in the use of the framework agreement as a secondary authority. Use of this framework has proved to be extremely beneficial as it has enabled the Council to call off contracts with relatively little additional procurement activity, yet enabled the achievement of £264k ongoing annual revenue savings on contracts let using the framework. This saving amounts to 26% on previous contract values where the service commissioned remained the same. The pricing information gives a useful benchmark that has been used in negotiations for contracts not covered by the framework.
- 3.4 The framework expires on 31.3.2014 and Lewisham and Southwark are proposing to set up a new framework that incorporates most of the previous categories of service, but also includes new categories, for example Health, Children and Young Peoples services where there will be new commissioning activity during the next few years common to all boroughs. It is recommended that Bromley Council joins the new framework as a secondary authority in order to take advantage of the prices obtained. This will be at an estimated one off cost of £10k (based on the cost of joining the existing framework and using it to let approximately £1.5m worth of contracts) to the council.
- 3.5 The key features of the joint framework agreement are:
- a. It will last for 4 years and will be agreed between the initiating authorities and providers.
 - b. The framework agreement will be divided into categories of services for different client groups.
 - c. Providers will be admitted onto the joint framework on the basis of their financial and operational status and the most economically advantageous bids. In effect the framework will be a preferred provider list with an agreed schedule of rates.
 - d. Providers will be obliged to provide services at their agreed rate. These rates are fixed for the first 3 years of the framework agreement. Changes to prices in year 4 are not linked to fixed indexes, but linked to availability of resources.
 - e. Participating boroughs can call services off the framework at any time or not at all. This can be done by using a mini competition between framework providers if necessary.

- 3.6 In order to access the framework agreement the Council would need to agree that Southwark and Lewisham will be the lead boroughs for the joint framework agreement and Southwark's procurement processes will apply. Whilst we will be able to comment on elements of the process to establish the framework the final decisions will rest with Lewisham and Southwark as lead authorities. Bromley commissioning and procurement staff will be involved in the process of evaluating tenders as part of any mini competition.
- 3.7 Bromley will not be obliged to use the joint framework agreement when it has been set up. If we do not use it for particular services an alternative arrangement will be made in accordance with financial regulations.
- 3.8 The Portfolio Holder will receive further reports when the framework contract is awarded and at the point when any call off against the framework is required.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The estimated one off cost of participating as a secondary authority on the joint framework agreement is £10k to use the framework to place contracts with an annual value of £1.5m.
- 4.2 The framework will establish clear prices and ensure that services deliver a high level of quality. It will also save on the procurement process.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific legal comments at present. Arrangements for Framework Agreements are covered under paragraph 7.3 of the Financial Regulations. Value for money is established by means of the initially vetting carried out when the framework is established and by the mini competition which will be held when seeking to place a specific service contract.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy Implications, Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	09018 Joint Framework Agreement for Supporting People Services