

Individual Executive Decision Notice

Report title	West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Flexible Framework Agreement 2021	
Decision designation	GREEN	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	
Wards affected	(All Wards);	
Accountable Director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
Originating service	Children's Commissioning Team	
Accountable employee	Veronica Grantham	Commissioning Officer
	Tel	01902 555494
	Email	Veronica.grantham@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Directorate Leadership Team	12 August 2021
	Cabinet Member Briefing	17 August 2021
	Cabinet (Resources) Panel	8 September 2021

Summary

Cabinet (Resources) Panel approved on 8 September 2021 to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Executive Director of Families, to approve the award of call-off contracts under the West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Flexible Framework Agreement 2021 when Staffordshire County Council awards contracts to successful providers under the framework agreement.

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

That the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, in consultation with the Executive Director of Families, awards call-off contracts under the West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Flexible Framework Agreement 2021 to successful providers in Appendix 1 for a duration of four years from 01 February 2022 to 31 January 2026 for a total contract value of £1,388,000. The estimated total spend on the framework across all participating authorities and trusts is £175,000,000 for the same period.

This report is PUBLIC
[PROTECT]

Signature
Councillor Beverley Momenabadi
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Date: 27 January 2022

Signature
Emma Bennett
Executive Director of Families

Date: 27 January 2022

1.0 Contract Information – New Contract

Contract Information – New Contract	
Contract name	West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Flexible Framework Agreement 2021
Ref no:	CWC21006
Provider	See Appendix 1
Decision type	New Contract Award
Corporate Plan aim	Children and young people get the best possible start in life
Originating service	Children and Young People's Service
Accountable officer	Veronica Grantham Commissioning Officer Children's Commissioning Team (01902) 555494
Cabinet Resource Panel approval	8 September 2021
Accountable Lead Cabinet Member	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Directorate Leadership Approval	Emma Bennett Executive Director of Families
Date Lead Cabinet Member briefed	17 August 2021
Procurement advisor	Anna Du-Mont Procurement Manager (01902) 55 1099
Type of procurement process	Open Light Touch
Evaluation scoring balance	Quality 60% Price 40%

2.0 Background

- 2.1. The lead authority for this framework is Staffordshire County Council, with partners being Birmingham Children's Trust, Coventry City Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Herefordshire Council, Sandwell Children's Trust, Shropshire Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Stoke on Trent City Council, Telford and Wrekin Council, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council, City of Wolverhampton Council and Worcestershire County Council.
- 2.2 The aims of this partnership approach are to:
- a) Improve outcomes for young people in care aged 16 to 17, care leavers and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)
 - b) Cater predominately for young people in care aged 16 to 17
 - c) Prevent homelessness for care leavers aged up to 21
 - d) Encourage market expansion to meet the participating local authorities' and trusts' sufficiency agenda
 - e) Provide a greater diversity of service provision
 - f) Improve quality of service delivery
 - g) Secure best value
- 2.3 Successful tenderers will be placed in one of the four tiers per category according to their combined 'Quality' and 'Price' scores. When a referral is made to all providers within a particular Tier, a mini competition exercise will be undertaken. The decision of which placement offer to accept will be up to the placement officer based on the offer being a suitable match for the Young Person in question.

3.0 Local Context

- 3.1 Whenever possible, young people in care aged 16 to 17 years and care leavers are supported either by the Council's in-house housing support service or the contracted supported accommodation service for young people provided by Accord Housing Association. For a small number of care leavers, these support services are not appropriate due to a requirement for them to live out of city. The most common reasons for this are risk of exploitation and their time in care being spent out of city, and therefore all their links including to education and training being out of city. The West Midlands Flexible Framework Agreement is used in such situations, and a strategic review of supported accommodation services has evidenced that although local usage is low, the framework is an important part of a comprehensive supported accommodation offer for care leavers in the Council.
- 3.2 During financial year 2020/21, 11 young people were supported by framework service providers. As on 5 April 2021, 3 young people were being supported by framework service providers; the average number is five at any one time. Actions are being taken to reduce the level of usage.

4.0 Contract Award

Proposed Contract Award	
Contract duration	Four years
Contract Commencement date	01 February 2022
Annual value	£347,000 (estimated spend by the Council)
Total value	£1,388,000 estimated spend by the Council over 4 years. Estimated total spend on the framework across all participating authorities is £175,000,000 for the same period.

5.0 Evaluation Results

5.1 The number of successful bidders to the Framework Model and the Categories of Service are:

Category	Categories of Service Provision	Total Successful Tenderers	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
1	Single Accommodation + face to face support hours as agreed in writing by Council	93	14	23	42	14
2	Shared 2-4 Accommodation + face to face support hours as agreed in writing by Council	97	15	24	44	14
3	Outreach Support not linked to specific Accommodation	79	12	20	35	12
4	Shared 2+ with sleep-in staff on site from 10.00pm to 7.00am each night, individual support hours to meet the individual Young Person's needs, Staff to be on call 24 hours to provide support if	111	17	28	50	16

	necessary. Unlimited hours of support where required. To provide support during the day as required without additional costs.					
5	Shared 2+ with staff on site 24/7 with individual support hours to meet the individual Young Person's needs, unlimited hours of support where required. Additional staff available to support individual Young People within the community. Waking night support. To provide support as required without additional costs.	120	18	30	54	18
6	UASCs - Single Accommodation + face to face support hours as required in writing by Council.	94	14	24	42	14
7	UASCs - Shared 2-4 Accommodation + face to face support hours as required in writing by Council.	95	15	24	43	13

5.2 Based on the evaluation criteria, sixty nine bidders were rejected.

5.3 A full list of successful bidders and their scores are in Appendix 1.

6.0 Procurement Process

6.1 The opportunity was advertised using Staffordshire County Council's e-tendering portal on 25 March 2021 [and in OJEU notice number 2021/S 000-006147] with a submission date of 12:00 noon on 26 April 2021.

6.2 The procedure followed was a single stage open (light touch regime) competitive tendering process agreement in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

6.3 The evaluation team comprised;

Name	Job Title	Organisation
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(if not WCC)		
Cathryn Greenway	Commissioning Manager	Birmingham Children's Trust
Nirmla Badhan	Commissioning Officer	Birmingham Children's Trust
Julie Kendall	Commissioning Officer	Coventry City Council
Shain Akhtar	Commissioning Officer	Dudley Council
Jon Brown	Project Support Manager	Dudley Council
Sian Hickman	Commissioning Officer	Dudley Council
Kim Clarke	Commissioning Support Officer	Herefordshire Council
Rakesh Mistry	Commissioning & Placements Manager	Sandwell Children's Trust
Joanne Jackson	Procurement Officer	Sandwell Children's Trust
Alison Davidson	Procurement Support Officer	Sandwell Children's Trust
Catherine Davis	Procurement & Performance Support Officer	Sandwell Children's Trust
Nicki Gilbert	Commissioning Officer	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Aimee Wright	Commissioning Manager	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Kelly Mountford	Commissioning Officer	City of Stoke-On-Trent Council
Carla Gater	Senior Commissioning Officer	City of Stoke-On-Trent Council
Sharon Smith	Commissioning and Contracts Officer	Telford & Wrekin Council
Mark Davis	Commissioning Officer	Telford & Wrekin Council
Jacque Soulier	Commissioner	Warwickshire County Council
Erica Johnson	Commissioning Support Officer	Warwickshire County Council
Rachel Pitts	Contracts Management Officer	Warwickshire County Council
Justine Bishop	Group Manager-Placements & Sufficiency	Worcestershire Children First
Craig Wheeler	Placement and Resources Team Manager	Worcestershire Children First
Paul Webber	Outreach Team Manager	Worcestershire Children First
Nicki Dolton-Deeley	Placement and Resources Monitoring Officer	Worcestershire Children First
Andrea Cooke	Commissioning Manager	Walsall Council
Raji Bains	Commissioning, Consultation and Contract Management Officer	Walsall Council
James Brookfield	Accommodation Officer	Staffordshire County Council
Andy Sjurseth	Commissioning Manager	West Midlands Regional Commissioning Hub
Charlotte Woolley	Commissioner	West Midlands Regional Commissioning Hub
Supriya Padwal	Data Analyst	West Midlands Regional Commissioning Hub

6.4 The evaluation concluded that the list of companies found on Appendix 1 should be awarded the contract.

7.0 Evaluation of Alternative Options

7.1 All alternative options are included within this report under the sections “Background” and “Local Context”.

8.0 Reason for Decisions

8.1 The reasons for the recommendations are included within this report under the sections “Background” and “Local Context”.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 During financial year 2020/21, the annual cost of young people in care aged 16 to 17 and care leavers supported by the regional framework contract is estimated to be in the region of £347,000 funded from Children’s Transition budget. The total potential spend over the 4 years of the framework is £1,338,000.

[Finance to code]

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 The procurement will be an Open procedure (above threshold) in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.

10.2 Councils have a duty to arrange for the accommodation and care of children for whom they have a responsibility pursuant to the Children Act 1989 Amended 2004. Accommodation will be secured for children and young people in care which will meet the needs of the child/young persons as outlined in the Sufficiency Duty (Children Act 1989 Section 22G) that are both economically advantageous and offer the highest quality.

[Legal to code]

11.0 Equalities Implications

11.1 An initial equality analysis has been completed. It evidences that there are no equalities implications. This will continue to be reviewed as our young people are placed through the framework.

11.2 The Council is committed to promote equality and diversity, giving every individual the chance to achieve their potential, free from prejudice and discrimination.

12.0 Corporate Landlord Implications

12.1 There are no implications for the Council’s property portfolio arising from the recommendations within this report.

13.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

13.1 Giving children and young people the best possible start in life is one of the City of Wolverhampton Council's key priorities.

14.0 Covid Implications

14.1 Providers will comply with all government guidelines relevant to Covid.

15.0 Appendices

15.1 Appendix 1 – West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Flexible Framework Agreement 2021 CRP

15.2 Appendix 2 - Evaluation Results - West Midlands Regional Supported Accommodation Flexible Framework Agreement 2021