



Notice of KEY Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Residential and Community Parenting Assessments
Cabinet Member:	<i>Meg Davis</i>
CMT Lead:	Tim Aldridge
Report Author and contact details:	<i>Vanessa Beaton Tel 01708433567</i> Vanessa.beaton@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	<p>There is a duty on the local authorities to provide parenting assessments (when required) under Sec38 (6) of the Children Act 1989</p> <p>Corporate Plan Refreshed 2014-15 Living Ambition Individuals: to have value and enhance the lives of Individuals</p> <p>"Delivering a cost effective service on the behalf of the council."</p>
Financial summary:	<p>Residential Family Centres Havering 2014-15</p> <p>In 2014/15 Havering had 6 Families accommodated in Residential Family Centres at a cost of £108,000</p> <p>Community Parenting Assessments 2014/15</p> <p>In 2014/15 it is estimated that there were 55 commissioned community parenting assessments purchased at</p>

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	<p>an estimated cost of £140,000</p> <p>2015-16 Residential family Centres</p> <p>In 2015/16 between April-September (6 months part year costs) Havering had 12 families accommodated in residential family centres at a cost of £275,000</p> <p>2015/16 Community Parenting Assessments</p> <p>In 2015/16 (6 months part year costs) it is estimated that there have been 17 commissioned community parenting assessments with estimated costs of £40,000</p> <p>If we extrapolate the existing part year costs for both residential and commissioned community parenting assessments the four year framework is expected to have an estimated annual cost of £630,000.00 and a four year cost of £2,520,000.00. This assumes no further increases in demand.</p>
Reason decision is Key	<p><i>(a) Expenditure or saving (including anticipated income) of £500,000 or more</i></p>
Date notice given of intended decision:	<p>December 2015/ January 2016</p>
Relevant OSC:	<p>Children's and Learning</p>
Is it an urgent decision?	<p>No</p>
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	<p>No</p>

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Havering will be clean and its environment will be cared for	<input type="checkbox"/>
People will be safe, in their homes and in the community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Residents will be proud to live in Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part A – Report seeking decision

To commence a Joint procurement exercise with the London Borough of Newham for community based and residential parenting assessments (subject to executive approval in both boroughs).

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Powers of members of the Corporate Management Team under Part 3 Paragraph 3.3 Contract powers (a) To approve commencement of a tendering process for all contracts above a total contract value of £156,000 and under Part 4 (contract procedure rules), Section 24, Schedule E

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The purpose of seeking this decision is to commence a joint procurement exercise with the London Borough of Newham for community based parenting assessments and residential parenting assessments, subject to executive approval in Newham. This is required so that we are compliant with the revised EU procurement regulations of February 2015.

The added advantages to the project that are expected to benefit both boroughs such as:

- to test the market and increase the number of providers that we are able to access
- Identify savings and /or efficiencies as a result of a joint procurement.
- Improve the quality of services.

Havering wants to be compliant with the constitution, EU procurement law and to have transparent and open processes.

Havering currently doesn't have a framework agreement that sets out the basic parameters for the business relationships between the Council and its providers. Currently providers are selected on the recommendation of team managers, social workers and other local authorities, therefore Havering has not been able to quantify that we are receiving the best value in terms of quality and cost.

Havering would like to collaborate with the London Borough of Newham as joint leaders of the tender process. Waltham Forest have also expressed an interest in taking part and may join at a later stage.

The framework will be tendering in lots and refreshed annually to encourage new providers to enter the framework.

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There will be three lots in the framework to provide flexibility

- A single supplier lot community parenting assessments with a fixed budget per annum; (Newham only)
- A multiple supplier lot for community parenting assessments with no guaranteed volume of assessments nor any guaranteed income
- A multiple supplier lot for residential parenting assessment with no guaranteed volume of assessments nor guaranteed income.

The framework is being tendered in a manner to permit those within the framework group to join at a later date to secure a place on the framework. There will be break clause options at year two and three.

The procurement will go out to tender during 2015 and the evaluation will take place during early 2016.

This tender process will follow EU procurement rules for public services and has been advertised on OJEU and on the contracts finder.

Residential and community parenting assessments provide a systematic way of analysing, understanding and recording what is happening to children within their families and the community of where they live. It is integral to the work of child protection practitioners as assessments are used to inform decisions about whether to remove and/or restore children to the care of their parents

An Independent Social Worker will undertake parenting assessments on behalf of Local Authorities when concerns arise in relation to a parent's ability to adequately and safely care for their child. Concerns of a child protection nature may come about because the parent has misused drugs or alcohol, they may have mental health issues or a learning disability or there might be domestic violence in the parents' relationship. Taking into account that the child is likely to have been exposed to factors of neglect, physical and emotional abuse and/or sexual abuse, Parenting Assessment will assess the parents' capacity to change whilst ensuring the child remains the focus of the assessment process.

A residential family centre is any establishment that provides residential services for parents and their children in order to monitor and assess the parents' ability to respond to their children's needs and to safeguard and promote their children's welfare.

Residential parenting assessments conducted in residential family centres are intended to provide robust, fair and evidence based assessments of parenting skills and capability for local authorities and the courts (Department for Education, 2013). Assessments are undertaken in accordance with the *Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and their Families* (Department of Health, 2000) and should take into account: a child's developmental needs; the capacity of the parents to support their child's development and respond appropriately to their needs; and wider family and

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environmental factors that may impact on the child's development and parenting capacity.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

To continue with the current situation with i.e spot purchasing and no framework agreement.

This was rejected due to the fact that Havering is unable to quantify that the services Havering are purchasing are best value in terms of quality and cost. Havering would also not be compliant with the new EU procurement regulation 2015.

Havering alone - This would not give Havering the opportunity to identify additional savings/ efficiencies

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

No current Framework Agreement in place, therefore no formal consultation required.

Consultation with Newham

Supply event on the 10th July

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Deborah Redknapp

Designation: Public Health

Signature:

Date:

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

None other than as set out in this Executive Decision subject to full compliance with the Council's Contract Procurement Rules (CPRs) and the EU Procurement Regulations and, in particular, the competitive requirements of Schedule E of CPRs

Robin Bloom, Senior Lawyer (Procurement)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Currently there is no separate budget line that identifies the costing of neither the Residential Parenting assessments nor the Community Parenting assessment. Hence, the current estimated costs cannot be confirmed, however, they are estimates

It is envisaged to commence a joint procurement exercise with Newham which in fact is agreeing a provider list for community base and residential parenting assessments which allows a vetted list to be available to avoid spot purchasing with no framework in place.

An agreed provider list allows consistency, a portal to demonstrate value for money and to have more choice.

There are no direct costs for Havering In this procurement as payment will only be made once the provider is used for an assessment.

Going forward the coding mechanism to track such costs will be set up in oracle and a full analysis will be able to be done, and in turn any efficiencies' demonstrated.

Rav Nijjar, Interim Strategic Finance Business Partner

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no direct HR implications or risks, to the Council or its workforce, that can be identified at this time from the recommendations made in this report

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has a statutory duty to provide parenting assessment when required under Sec38 (6) of the Children Act 1989 and therefore must ensure that there is a robust, fair and evidence based framework in place for Residential and Community Parenting Assessments.

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While Newham council will be leading on the tender process, Havering must ensure that the process adheres to EU regulations and Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and that relevant Child protection /Safeguarding, Equality & Diversity and Health & Safety regulations, standards and requirements are incorporated in the tender specification.

Prospective suppliers of Residential and Community Parenting Assessments will be required to comply with Council's Equality in Service Provision policy and their performance will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that the Assessments they are carrying out are robust, fair and evidence based. Suppliers will also need to have appropriate E&D monitoring mechanisms in place to demonstrate that the needs of families are effectively addressed.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Delete as applicable

Proposal NOT agreed because

Details of decision maker

Signed

Name:

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date:

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Andrew Beesley, Committee Administration & Interim Member Support Manager in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____

