

10.00am, Thursday, 29 June 2017

Independent Advocacy Services

Contract Ref: CT 0173

Item number	8.12
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	

Executive Summary

This report seeks Council's approval to award contracts for the provision of Independent Advocacy Services to AdvoCard and to Partners in Advocacy from 1 July 2017 for a period of three years, with annual options to extend for a maximum of two further years.

These two contracts will replace similar contracts which end on 30 June 2017.

The total estimated value of the contracts, including extensions, is £3,900,000.

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Independent Advocacy Services

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended Council approves the award of contracts to AdvoCard and to Partners in Advocacy for the provision of Independent Advocacy Services from 1 July 2017 for three years, with annual options to extend for a maximum of two further years. Total estimated contract value, including possible extensions, is £3,900,000.

2. Background

- 2.1 There is a statutory requirement for the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (EHSCP) to make provision for independent advocacy services for people in receipt of health or social care services. The Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) principles and standards define an independent advocacy organisation as “an advocacy organisation that is structurally, financially and psychologically separate from service providers and other services”.
- 2.2 The Scottish Government has issued guidance to ensure that advocacy is sufficiently independent to avoid compromise.
- 2.3 The Council currently has contracts in place with Partners in Advocacy (two contracts) and AdvoCard (one contract) for provision of independent advocacy in respect of:
- 2.3.1 Older people and people with physical disabilities (Partners in Advocacy)
 - 2.3.2 People with learning disabilities (Partners in Advocacy)
 - 2.3.3 People with mental health support needs and carers of people with mental health support needs and / or learning disabilities (AdvoCard)

3. Main report

- 3.1 A Future Contract Opportunity (FCO) notice was published on the Public Contracts Scotland website on 7 March 2016 and 17 organisations registered interest.
- 3.2 The initial procurement plan was to undertake co-production followed by an appropriate procurement process with award of contracts in September 2016 and a contract start date of 1 December 2016.

- 3.3 On 8 September 2016 the Finance and Resources Committee approved the extension of current contracts to 30 June 2017 to allow additional time for consultation and co-production with service users as detailed in section 9 of this report.
- 3.4 Based on feedback from current and potential service providers, the Advocacy Project Board agreed that the procurement should be a 'Competitive Procedure with Negotiation', which satisfied the provider preference for an opportunity to make presentations to the evaluation panel and allow for face-to-face negotiation as necessary.
- 3.5 The requirement was split into two "lots", namely Independent Advocacy for People with Mental Health Support Needs and Unpaid Carers (Lot 1) and Independent Advocacy for People with Learning Disabilities, Adults with Autistic Spectrum Condition, Older People and Adults with Physical Disabilities (Lot 2).
- 3.6 On 5 November 2016, a Contract Notice was published on the Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) website, together with related documents, including a final draft service specification. Three formal Requests to Participate (RTPs) were received by the deadline of 5 December 2016.
- 3.7 On 8 December 2016, an Invitation to Tender (ITT) was published, together with related documents, including the service specification. Two tenders were received by the deadline of 20 January 2017; one for each of the two Lots.
- 3.8 Following evaluation, the tender submitted by AdvoCard for Lot 1 scored 86.88% and the tender submitted by Partners in Advocacy for Lot 2 scored 70.69%.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 A new service specification was developed through the procurement process, which meets the needs of people who use independent advocacy services in Edinburgh.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The total cost of Independent Advocacy Services in 2016/17 was jointly funded by City of Edinburgh Council and NHS Lothian (NHSL) and was £836,000. Following agreement with NHSL to reserve part of its contribution for specialist advocacy provision at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for people from East, Mid and West Lothian, the jointly funded 2017/18 budget for Edinburgh based service users is £783,446.
- 5.2 The estimated contract value for Lot 1 is £530,000 per annum, which provides 20,010 hours of service per annum.
- 5.3 The estimated contract value for Lot 2 is £250,000 per annum, which provides 10,000 hours of service per annum.

- 5.4 The overall estimated value of both contracts is £780,000 per annum, which is within the allocated budget of £783,446.
- 5.5 The costs associated with procuring these contracts are estimated at between £10,001 and £20,000.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There are no risk, policy, compliance or governance impacts arising from this report.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 There are positive equality impacts arising from this report as it facilitates access by vulnerable people to independent advocacy services. An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been undertaken.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The sustainability risk has been assessed as low and no mitigating actions are required. There are no impacts on carbon, adaptation to climate change and sustainable development arising directly from this report.
- 8.2 The successful tenderers have offered community benefits in support of volunteers and service users, including free training and representation in governance and management arrangements, as well as placement opportunities for social workers

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 A Future Contract Opportunity (FCO) notice was published on the Public Contracts Scotland website on 7 March 2016 and seventeen organisations registered interest.
- 9.2 Consultation was conducted from 15 August to 22 September 2016 and involved using a targeted approach to seek the views of current service users and unpaid carers. Current providers were also consulted to discuss their perspectives. In addition, a brief questionnaire was issued to mental health officers, NHS community mental health teams and social work practice teams to seek their feedback.
- 9.3 The total number of service users and carers who responded to the consultation was 133. The total number of staff involved in the consultation was 69.
- 9.4 In total there were 13 consultation events held during the period of the consultation. Out of the total, nine were facilitated by Council and NHS officers and four were facilitated by staff of the current providers of independent advocacy.

- 9.5 There were also 63 individual responses to the consultation questions from service users and carers.
- 9.6 The draft service specification was continuously developed throughout the period of consultation and coproduction to take account of input from the wide range of stakeholders.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance website <http://www.siaa.org.uk>

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11. Links

Coalition Pledges	P30 – Continue to maintain a sound financial position including long-term financial planning
Council Priorities	CP2 – improved health and wellbeing: reduced inequalities CP3 – Right care, right place, right time CP4 – Safe and empowered communities
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2 – Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Summary of Tendering and Tender Evaluation Processes

Appendix 1

Summary of Tendering and Tender Evaluation Processes

Contract	Independent Advocacy Services Contract Ref: CT 0173
Contract period (including any extensions)	1 July 2017 to 30 June 2022
Estimated contract value	Lot 1 £2,650,000 (including extensions) Lot 2 £1,250,000 (including extensions)
Standing Orders observed	2.5 EU Principles have been applied 2.13 Commercial and Procurement Services provided resource to undertake tendering 3.2 Director has responsibility for all contracts tendered and led by their Directorate 5.1 Tenders evaluated on basis of most economically advantageous tender
Portal used to advertise	Public Contracts Scotland
EU Procedure chosen	Competitive Procedure with Negotiation
Tenders returned	2
Tenders fully compliant	2
Recommended suppliers	Lot 1 Advocard Lot 2 Partners in Advocacy
Primary criterion	Most economically advantageous tender to have met the qualitative and technical specification of the client department
Evaluation criteria and weightings and reasons for this approach	Quality 70% Price 30% Quality was considered more important than price in the context of the service.
Evaluation Team	Council officers from Health & Social Care and a representative of NHS Lothian with relevant experience
Consideration of procurement methodology and processes to ensure SME friendly	Future Contract Opportunity (FCO) notice was published on the Public Contracts Scotland website on 7 March 2016. Extended consultation with all key stakeholders. Logging of requirements.