

## **MULTI-SYSTEMIC THERAPY SERVICE**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) is a licensed intensive family driven service targeted at young people between the ages of 11 and 17 years who are involved in offending or anti-social behaviour and who are consequently at risk of entering care or being taken into custody.
- 1.2 The Council has been successful in a bid to the Department for Education for grant funds to support the development of this new service in Derby. This grant will supplement monies already identified in CYPD base budget for this service.
- 1.3 Given this new funding tenders have been sought from providers to deliver the service for four years and two organisations have submitted bids. These have been evaluated on a price/quality basis and a preferred provider identified.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To agree to contract out the multi systemic therapy service for a 4 year period from August 2012.
- 2.2 To award the contract for the service to Action For Children Services Limited.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The reduction of young people in care and custody is a priority for the Council and this service will help to achieve this aim.
- 3.2 The tenders were evaluated to take account of both quality and price and we are satisfied that Action For Children Services Limited will deliver a good service.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The duration of the contract being offered for the tender is 4 years, as this is the period for which the service was agreed in the bid to the DFE and agreed by CYPD Departmental Management Team. This will offer maximum opportunity to benefit from potential MST outcomes including:
- Decrease in long term re-arrest rates
  - Decrease in 'out of home' placements
  - Increased mainstream school attendance
  - Improved family relations
- 4.2 The indicative annual cost for the service included in the tender is £330,000. This is in line with the service costs indicated by the DfE and in line with other new national MST sites which are under tender.
- 4.3 As well as evaluating the bidders' ability to deliver the service as required by the service specification, the tender also included information and questions relating to the providers willingness and ability to support the local economy through this service development.
- 4.4 The successful bidder Action For Children Services Limited demonstrated their knowledge of local services and already established communication links across Derby. They stated that although MST is a specialised service they will look to employ from within the local community and expect staff to be local so that are able to engage with young people in a timely manner, as required by the contract.
- 4.5 A detailed needs analysis required by DFE has been resourced and completed and this is also contributing to wider needs information being used in Derby.
- 4.6 Derby is ahead of most of other new sites in terms of the MST development. Derby has an active multi-agency steering group, a positively engaged wider stakeholder group and governance arrangements are in place. Work is progressing on developing referral pathways for MST linked to other specialist services and initial links have been made with the Magistrates court in respect of the potential to utilise the MST service as an alternative to care or custody.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The option of managing the service within the Council has been actively pursued, including exploring shared management arrangements for staff on health contracts with local health trusts. The barriers and risks were considered to be too great and that the option of tendering the service was considered the most viable way of delivering MST.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Stuart Leslie Alison Parkin  Mark Barratt Andrew Bunyan
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<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 Council Cabinet on the 6th September 2011 approved the addition of a DfE grant to CYPD for the specific purpose of establishing an MST Service. Additional core funding within the CYPD has established an annual budget of £330k for the four years duration of the tendered contract. Within this is an annual license fee of £5k.
- 1.2 Existing and developing national and international evaluation of the MST approach shows positive outcomes for young people. This is supported by a reduction in high cost care and remand/custody services for agencies; where there is adherence to the MST model. Further to this, increased costs for the Council are anticipated in terms of future remands and custody which strengthens the importance of effective intervention and prevention.

**Legal**

- 2.1 The Council's legal and procurement staff have been involved in drawing up the tendering documentation and contract for the provision of a MST Service between the Council and the provider.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 N/A

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 The service will aim to support vulnerable young people who are at risk of care or custody to remain at home where it is safe and possible to do so. Key information from the needs assessment completed prior to tendering the service has been included in the tender documentation. This includes data relating to age, gender and ethnic background of the likely target population and the providers' responses to how those needs will be met has been a key element of the evaluation criteria.

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 Issues relating to the health and safety of staff and customers will be covered by existing policies and practice and have been assessed as part of the tender process.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 N/A

## **Asset Management**

7.1 N/A

## **Risk Management**

8.1 The contract will be subject to regular performance monitoring of the contract outcomes and value for money. The successful bidder Action For Children Services evidenced clear risk assessments and mitigation plans within their bid.

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

9.1 The role of the MST fits squarely with CYPD priorities of developing effective earlier intervention and reducing the use of care and custody. They also support:

- All people in Derby will enjoy achieving their learning potential
- All people in Derby will enjoy being safe and feeling safe
- All people in Derby will enjoy good health and well-being.