

**Key Decision Report of the Interim Corporate Director of Children's Services**

<b>Key Officer Decision</b>	<b>Date: 19 November 2021</b>	<b>Ward(s): All</b>
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<b>Delete as appropriate</b>	Exempt	Non-exempt
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**THE APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION****SUBJECT: Contract Award for Youth Services at Lift and Rose Bowl sites****1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to award contract in respect of Youth Services at Lift and Rose Bowl youth sites in accordance with the Council's Procurement Rules. This report outlines the procurement process used to secure a provider for this element of the agreed Young Islington universal youth work offer, which was agreed by the council's Executive Committee on 29 April 2021. The intention is for this contract to start from January 2022.
- 1.2 The council has undertaken a transparent procurement process in accordance with the council's Procurement Rules to secure an appropriate provider. The contract award will be for up to seven years (five years with up to two extensions of one year each).
- 1.3 The council is seeking a provider who can deliver the youth offer, summer programme and emotional wellbeing services, alongside a separately funded Direct Access Social Prescribing Service. Delivery will be centred in and around the Lift and Rose Bowl youth spaces in the borough.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve the contract award to Isledon Arts CIC for Youth Services at Lift and Rose Bowl sites to a value of £4,130,000 for a period of up to seven years from 1 January 2022, as outlined in this report. The Social Prescribing element, during this period, equates to a maximum contract budget of £490,000.

### 3. Date the decision is to be taken:

19 December 2021.

### 4. Background

4.1 Since February 2020, the council has been shaping, with young people and key stakeholders, a new youth offer for young people in Islington in line with Fairer Together and the Youth Safety Strategy. Through extensive discovery and design work comprising of conversations, focus groups and larger consultation events carried out in partnership with two independent expert organisations, stakeholders have identified that they want to see a new model that:

- reaches further into Somali, Turkish and Bangladeshi communities,
- engages young people who have previously not used universal youth services,
- more directly addresses inequalities, e.g. accessibility for young people with disabilities, and from LGBTQ communities,
- attracts those that are vulnerable to poorer outcomes,
- attracts those who are living in more deprived wards or households,
- effectively draws in the collective capacity of the Islington community, and
- better utilises spaces available to engage young people, including establishing a new youth space on the Andover estate.

#### 4.2 Contract Period:

For Lift and Rose Bowl the initial contract term is up to 60 months, from an estimated start date of Saturday 1 January 2022, with the option to extend for a further two periods of up to 12 months each subject to performance and the council's financial position.

For the Direct Access Social Prescribing Service, which has a separate funding stream, the initial contract term is 12 months, with six optional extensions, each of a further 12 months.

#### Contract Budget:

For Lift and Rose Bowl, the total annual contract budget is £590,000, equating to a total maximum contract budget of £4,130,000 should all extensions be agreed and implemented.

For the Direct Access Social Prescribing service, the total annual contract budget is £70,000. Funding is currently secured until 31 January 2023 (the first year of service delivery), with the expectation to extend a further six times 12 months, subject to funding availability. This equates to a maximum contract budget of £490,000 should all extensions be implemented.

4.3 The current contract expires on 31 December 2021. The timetable for this procurement process is as follows:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Closing date for questions	Monday 25 October 2021
Closing date for submission of ITT	10am Monday 1 November 2021
Clarification meetings (if required)	8 - 9 November 2021
Negotiation (if required)	10 - 11 November 2021
Award	December 2021
Anticipated contract start date	1 January 2022

- 4.4 The procurement was conducted as an Open Procedure. This one-stage process consists of Suitability Assessment questions followed by Method Statement questions. The latter relate to quality and financial criteria against which all bidders (which have passed the suitability assessment) are assessed. The entirety of the procurement process was conducted using the e-procurement system via the London Tenders Portal.
- 4.5 The contract was advertised on Find a Tender Service and Contracts Finder. There was also a significant and extensive market warming exercise completed throughout this year which culminated in the summer of 2021. This led to interest from a number of providers, most of whom are leaders in the youth work delivery sector.
- 4.6 This contract is being procured under the Light Touch regime under Section 7 Social and Other Specific Services of Part 2 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Under Regulation 76, the Council is free to establish a procedure, provided that the procedure is sufficient to ensure compliance with the principles of transparency and equal treatment of economic operators (service providers) and is initiated by a contract notice. However, what the Council has designed is essentially the Open Procedure, but with the potential for negotiation at the end, similar to the competitive procedure with negotiation. The Open Procedure means that all bidders who successfully express an interest will automatically be invited to tender and have access to the tender documents. Those who submit a tender and meet the minimum requirements (by answering Selection questions) will have their full tender, method statements and pricing evaluated. The council reserves the right to award the contract on the basis of initial tenders without negotiation, and also not to make an award of contract at all.
- 4.7 The tender evaluation panel consisted of the Corporate Director of Fairer Together, the Director of Young Islington, a representative from the Play and Youth Commissioning services (which is part of Young Islington), the Assistant Director of Children's Commissioning (North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group), the Children's Services Finance Manager, a representative from Friends of Rose Bowl, the Safer Schools & Youth Engagement Lead for the Islington/Camden Metropolitan Police Borough Command Unit and two youth work specialists representing the council. Young people were also part of the process and contributed to the scoring of the presentations.
- 4.8 The panel recommended a contract award of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) on the basis of 70% quality and 30% cost. The following criteria addressed the quality and cost elements of the submissions, which were evaluated on tender submission and presentation and clarified at interview.

### **Quality 70%**

1. Proposed approach to working as part of Young Islington including working together to develop an engaging youth work offer that delivers positive outcomes for young people in Islington including those who are vulnerable.	30%
2. Proposed approach to delivering social value	20%
3. Proposed approach to safeguarding, early intervention and earliest help within multi-agency context	10%
4. Proposed approach to contract mobilisation	5%
5. Proposed approach to delivery and development of the Emotional Wellbeing and Direct Access Social Prescribing services.	5%

Cost 30%

6. Financial forecast in line with the length of the service contract including consideration of the COVID and post-COVID context.	30%
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Total 100%

## 5. Implications

### 5.1 Financial implications:

The price of the highest scoring tender is in line with the budget of £590,000 for Youth Services at Lift and Rose Bowl and £70,000 for Direct Access Social Prescribing Service. The budget for Lift and Rose Bowl includes a £50,000 annual contribution from The Friends of Rose Bowl, which is secured on an annual basis.

The budget does not include provision of facilities management at Lift and Rose Bowl. This is being addressed separately and the financial implications of these arrangements will be considered accordingly.

### 5.2 Legal Implications:

Although the council has no statutory duty to provide an offer of youth work it does have a duty under the Children Act, section 10 to make arrangements to promote co-operation with its partners with a view to improving the well-being of children in the authority's area so far as relating to:

- (a) physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
- (b) protection from harm and neglect;
- (c) education, training and recreation;
- (d) the contribution made by them to society;
- (e) social and economic well-being.

The Council has power to provide the offer of youth work under the General Power of Competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The services described in this report are not subject to any other statutory provision. The Council has power to enter into contracts with providers of such services under section 1 of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997.

The youth offer being procured is subject to the light regime set out in Regulations 74 to 77 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the Regulations). The threshold for application of this light regime is currently £663,540.00. The value of the proposed contract is above this threshold. Accordingly, the contract was advertised on Find a Tender Service and Contracts Finder. There are no prescribed procurement processes under the light regime. Therefore, the council may use its discretion as to how it conducts the procurement process provided that it discharges its duty to comply with the Treaty principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and fair competition. The council's Procurement Rules require contracts over the value of £189,330.00 to be subject to competitive tender.

The proposed contract has been procured in compliance with the principles underpinning the Regulations and the council's Procurement Rules. Therefore, the contract may be awarded to Isledon Arts CIC as recommended in the report.

In deciding whether to award the contract to Isledon Arts CIC the Corporate Director of Children's Services should be satisfied as to the competence of the provider to provide the services and that the tender price represents value for money for the Council.

The contract terms applying to this award of contract were provided to bidders with the invitation to tender. The Council's standard terms and conditions were used with additional features, including rights to terminate the contract in certain circumstances:

- (a) For certain breaches of contract
- (b) After 2 years, the contract can be brought to an end on serving 6 months' notice, so there is a minimum contract term of 2 years and 6 months that needs to be adhered to.

Officers are satisfied that there are other costs implications for facilities management of Lift and Rose Bowl, and a TUPE cost for LGPS pension which will be met internally.

In considering the recommendations in this report the Corporate Director of Children's Services must take into account the information contained in the exempt appendix to the report.

### **5.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:**

The main environmental impact of the youth offer is the use of energy and water and waste generation on the sites. The specification requires that these impacts are kept to a minimum through the provision of high quality facilities management, with ecological efficiencies identified wherever possible. Organisations running youth centres have a vested interest in ecologically sound practice, given the high level of interest in environmental issues amongst young people with council commissioners ensuring this is adhered to through robust contract monitoring and quality assurance processes in place over the life of the contract.

### **5.4 Resident Impact Assessment:**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The award of this contract is likely to have positive impacts on residents of all ages as young people are supported through high quality youth work relationships to make the most of their teenage years and contribute positively to their communities. The positive relationships between youth workers and young people and amongst different groups of young people themselves, are intended to support the personal, social and emotional development of recipients and their understanding of the world around them. This development, in turn, is

likely to ensure that young people are more able to sustain positive personal friendships, make well informed decisions and manage their emotions effectively. Confident, positive and emotionally-regulated young people are less likely to be vulnerable to being drawn into crime, anti-social behaviour or other less positive outcomes and be able to contribute positively at home, school and in the wider community. The service specification requires the provider to have robust policies and procedures in place to ensure that their services eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity.

## **6. Reasons for the decision:**

6.1 Approval of the recommendation to award a contract to Isledon Arts CIC will provide;

- Strengthen the borough's approach to early intervention and prevention which includes preventing escalation within statutory settings
- High quality and interconnected youth work to young people across the borough within a multi-agency context
- Additional support and reach to young people from Black and minoritised backgrounds
- Significant added social value, targeted engagement of young people and communities currently excluded from services
- Contribute towards the council's commitment to strengthen educational achievement and attainment
- Complementary emotional wellbeing and social prescribing offers that reduce pressure on higher tier clinical mental health services, whilst providing for unmet need through non-clinical positive activities and support.

## **7. Record of the decision:**

To be completed after 5 days on the website and re-sent to Democratic Services.

7.1 I have today decided to take the decision set out in section 2 of this report for the reasons set out above.

**Signed by:**



Interim Director, Children's Services

Date: 19.11.21

## **Appendices**

- Result of the evaluation of shortlisted tenders for Lot 2 of the future offer of universal youth work in Islington

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