



Key Decision Report of the interim Corporate Director of Children's Services

Officer Key Decision	Date: 19 November 2021	Ward(s): All
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THE APPENDIX TO THIS REPORT IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SUBJECT: Contract award for elements of the future offer of universal youth work in Islington – Lot 3 (Platform)

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report outlines the procurement process used to secure a provider for Lot 3 of the agreed Young Islington universal youth work offer, which was agreed by the council's Executive on 29 April 2021. The intention is for this contract to start from 1 December 2021.
- 1.2 The council has undertaken a transparent procurement process in accordance with the council's Procurement Rules to secure an appropriate provider from 1 December 2021. The contract award will be for up to seven years (five years with up to two extensions of one year each). The advertised estimated total value of the contract is £2,240,00 over the maximum 84 months' term of the contract. This is based on £320,000 per annum.
- 1.3 The specification requires the appointed provider play a major role in securing the Young Islington universal youth work offer. Platform will function as a borough wide provision for all Islington young people. It is well known by young people particularly for its capacity to deliver exciting arts opportunities, for example in music, performance, dance, spoken word, lyric writing and music production. The provider of Lot 3 will be expected to build on and further amplify this reputation for innovation and excellence.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To award the contract for Lot 3 to Fourth Monkey Education Limited which would sub-contract elements to Beyond the Box Consultants, Play Nice London Limited and The Brandon Centre.

3. Date the decision is to be taken:

3.1 It is proposed that this decision will be made on 19 November 2021. The decision will be taken under delegated authority to the Corporate Director of People as agreed by the Executive on 29 April 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 The appointed provider will be required to:

- Develop, deliver and host a high quality, innovative and interconnected programme of youth work activities, spaces and multi-agency support services for young people's development.
- Provide significant additional social value, e.g. to support young people's employment
- Work closely with the rest of the Young Islington partnership to shape and support the delivery of high quality youth work across the borough in line with the identified needs.
- Develop a close working relationship with Targeted Youth Support (TYS)¹ to ensure that disengaged and more at risk young people receive the support they need at Platform

¹ [Targeted Youth Support and Youth Offending Service, TYS/YOS | Islington Directory](#)

- Be an ‘outward facing’ provision, which assertively seeks to engage young people who have not previously been reached by the universal youth work offer, through working with the locality networks as well as other community and grassroots groups. This includes delivering agreed programmes and opportunities beyond the Platform building such as pop-ups, contributions to community events, outreach and in-reach and opportunities for partners to deliver programmes within Platform in partnership.

4.3 There is a current contract in place which will expire on 31 December 2021.

Details of the tendering process for the contract for Lot 3 are set out in paragraphs 4.4 to 4.9.

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. It was also advertised on Islington’s website and distributed widely amongst existing networks and channels.

4.6 The tender evaluation panel consisted of the Corporate Director of Fairer Together, the Director of Young Islington, the Head of Play and Youth Commissioning Services, the Service Development Manager - Play and Youth, the Head of Cultural Enrichment and Finance manager – Children’s. Young people joined the panel to assess at the presentation stage and contributed to the scoring of the presentations.

4.7 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.

4.8 Two tenders were received. Following evaluation of the suitability question responses, both tenderers met minimum requirements. Following assessment of the written tender responses of the suitable tenderers, a presentation and a separate clarification meeting, the tender evaluation panel concluded that the tender submitted by Forth Monkey was the most economically advantageous tender. The results of the evaluation are set out in the Exempt appendix to this report.

The criteria that were scored against are as follows:

Cost 30%

1. Financial forecast in line with the length of the service contract including consideration of the COVID and post-COVID context	15%
2. Business model plan including income generation / fundraising details including consideration of the COVID and post-COVID context	15%

Quality 70%

3. Proposed approach to delivering social value, e.g., employment opportunities for young people, including apprenticeships; engagement with the council's commitment to 100 hours of experience of the world of work for all Islington young people; leadership opportunities within the organisation and how young people will lead the development of youth work programmes and other elements of Young Islington	20%
4. Proposed approach to delivery of outcomes for young people in the COVID and post COVID context, including: delivery and evidence of outcomes and outputs as described in the service specification; approach to delivering a co-produced youth work programme; tools and methodologies for measuring the outputs and outcomes achieved; effective delivery of earliest help through high quality youth work relationships	10%
5. Proposed approach to working as part of Young Islington including: working together to develop an engaging borough wide offer of provision for all Islington young people, as well young people who are vulnerable; multiagency working with the locality networks as well as professionals in targeted and specialist services; collaborating with local, regional and national partners to engage in strategic developments for young people	10%
6. Proposed approach to contract mobilisation including: COVID related considerations, marketing, promotion and communication, TUPE, staff recruitment and training; community engagement; working with the council, including commissioners and other key professionals; business continuity planning and consistency in service delivery for young people	10%
7. Proposed approach to safeguarding, early intervention and earliest help in the COVID and post-COVID context, including: policies and procedures; staff training and development; holistic approaches to working with young people in need of additional support; safeguarding issues specifically focussed on supporting young volunteers and employees	10%
8. Proposed approach to facilities management including COVID security	10%

Total 100%

5. Implications

5.1 Financial implications:

There is currently sufficient budget available to meet the £320,000 annual cost for the duration of the contract. There will be a small pressure of approx. £27,000 as there is an overlap of the existing contract to the current providers for one month, that will be absorbed in the 2021-22 financial year.

The provider has assumed in the submitted business plan that it will receive 100% business rate relief as it is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). As 20% of business rate relief is discretionary, this may produce a budget pressure of approximately £13k per annum, which the provider would be expected to find.

5.2 Legal Implications:

This report seeks approval to award contract to Fourth Monkey Education Limited and their chosen sub-contractors called Beyond the Box Consultants, Play Nice London Limited and The Brandon Centre.

The contract award is for five years with up to extensions of one year each. The advertised estimated total value of the contract is £2,240,00 over the maximum 84 months' term of the contract. This is based on £320,000 per annum.

The Council has power to provide the offer of youth work under its general power of competence (section 1 Localism Act 2011). Accordingly, the Council has power to enter into a contract for the provision of such services (section 1 Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997).

The services procured fall under the light touch regime set out in Regulations 74 to 77 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the Regulations). The threshold for application of this light touch regime is currently £615,278.00. The value of the proposed contract is above this threshold.

The council's Procurement Rules require light touch contracts over the value of £500,000.00 to be subject to competitive tender. In compliance with the requirements of the light touch regime in the Regulations and the council's Procurement, a competitive tendering exercise has been undertaken with the contract being advertised in Find a Tender Service using the open procedure. Fourth Monkey received the higher overall rating and, therefore, may be awarded the contract provided the decision maker is reasonably satisfied as to the competence of the chosen tenderer and that the tender price represents value for money for the council. In reaching their decision, the decision maker should take into account the information contained in the exempt appendix.

5.3 Environmental Implications

The main environmental impact of the youth offer is the use of energy and water and waste generation on the sites. However, 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 Lot 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 that this Lot is intended to ensure, both 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.

5.5 Social Impact:

The service specification includes a number of explicit requirements in relation to social value, which have been identified in the proposal submitted by Fourth. These include supporting young people in the following ways:

- co-design approach, which will supplement the activities that are currently taking place at the Platform space
- access a number of dedicated scholarships for undergraduate or postgraduate training via Fourth Monkey's accredited courses, provided, awarded and financed by Fourth Monkey and their patron network
- each Stakeholder will host 2 work experience placements per year (6 in total through the 100 hours of work scheme.)
- Beyond The Box will deliver an access to creative careers programme that will see 25 work experience placements in year one, increasing to 30 in year two and three, and 35 each year thereafter
- Two Creative Industry Symposiums will provide young people with over 24 hours of learning in relation to different careers and industries
- Fourth Monkey will deliver a series of events throughout the year to engage with and celebrate the diverse communities represented within the London borough of Islington. This initiative is to enable individuals to see themselves and their heritage reflected in the creative environment, fostering a tangible sense of individual access and inclusion within the wider arts sector

6. Reasons for the decision

6.1 Approval of the recommendation to award a contract to Fourth Monkey for Lot 3 will:

- high quality, innovative programme of youth work delivered after school in term times and during the day and evening in school holidays as a minimum in line with young people's input
- ensure a wide range of opportunities that engage young people who are new to creative opportunities as well as those who have some experience. These opportunities will be focused on creativity in its widest sense and will be based on young people's interests, needs and aspirations
- Significant added social value

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 of Children's Services

Date 19/11/2021

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Appendix 1 (exempt): Result of the evaluation of shortlisted tenders

THIS APPENDIX IS EXEMPT AND IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

This Appendix is not for publication as it contains the following category of exempt information as specified in Paragraph 3, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely: "Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).