

Item No. 21.	Classification: Open	Date: 17 September 2013	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Gateway 2 – Contract Award Approval Semi-Independent Living Service	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All Wards	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, Children’s Services	

FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES

This council is committed to ensuring its children and young people realise their potential and that our most vulnerable are supported to live independent safe and healthy lives. We know that children and young people come into care for a variety of reasons and at different ages. We are committed to ensuring that as many children are adopted or placed with their family or with foster carers for as long as possible. Where these options are not available or sustainable it is vital that our young 16-17 year olds have access to the right support alongside good quality accommodation so they are able to realise their full potential.

This report recommends the award of a framework contract for semi independent living services, supporting the council’s commitments in its children and young people’s plan and delivering on its sufficiency duty. This contract introduces enhanced quality requirements from semi independent living providers and increases the supply of placements within seven miles of the borough, making it easier for young people to maintain contact with friends and family. This underlines the council’s commitment and focus on achieving the best outcomes for our young people, while making sure we have an effective mechanism for ensuring we get value for money when these placements are necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet approve the award of a semi-independent living service framework for children in care to include the providers listed in Appendix 1 for a period of four years commencing on 14 October 2013 in the estimated maximum sum of £6.8m.
2. That the cabinet notes that the strategic director of children’s and adults’ services will award contracts for individual placements on the council’s preferred terms through the framework.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Children come into care for a variety of reasons. Some enter at birth whilst others enter as either young children or teenagers. Children’s and Adults’ Services ensure that as many children as possible are adopted or placed with family members, but a significant majority remain in care for most of their childhood and adolescence.

4. Usually children's placement needs are met through the council foster carers, recruited, trained and supported by the council. In circumstances where it is not possible to meet a child's needs through the council's service, the council will commission a range of alternative placements which can provide more specialist support.
5. The semi-independent living service is provided when young people aged 17 to 18 (may be aged 16 in exceptional circumstances) are unable to remain settled in a fostering environment. This may be for a variety of reasons including the fact that some young people do not want any alternative family including their birth family. There are also a number of late entrants into the care system (aged 16 and 17) who come into care as a result of chaotic family lifestyles who simply will not settle or accept a fostering placement.
6. As at July 2013 there were 579 looked after children in Southwark, 27 with the semi independent living services, 439 with foster carers; 27 have been placed for adoption; 24 with placements in the community; 53 in specialist residential settings including those with profound disabilities; and 9 subject to court ordered parent and child assessment placements
7. Ofsted reported in June 2012 that looked after children and young people's economic well-being outcomes were adequate. The council is determined to improve this assessment and the Children and Young People's Plan, the Corporate Parenting Committee and the children in care commissioning strategy have identified this as a priority area for development.
8. Strong partnerships with Housing and Community Services are well established ensuring priority for care leavers through Supporting People arrangements and providing secure tenancies. The majority of responses to a perception survey show that most care leavers live in good or very good accommodation, however, almost one third do not feel they are living in the right location and some care leavers who spoke to inspectors had variable views on the suitability of their accommodation.
9. On 25 September 2012, cabinet approved a procurement strategy which would provide good quality accommodation to improve outcomes for this vulnerable group and as far as possible move away from costly spot purchasing. The strategy was to put a framework in place that captured leading best practice whilst at the same time ensuring an affordable high quality service. The framework would meet the overarching aim of the service to assist the council in implementing its role as corporate parent to help and assist vulnerable young people in care to make a successful transition to a healthy and productive adult life.
10. To achieve this the service was split into generalist and specialist lots for which applicants were invited to tender for the following placement types:

Generalist:

Lot 1a High Support 24/7	with 14 hours key worker support each week
Lot 1b Medium Support	with 7 hours key worker support each week
Lot 1c Low Support	with 3 hours key worker support each week

Specialist:

Lot 2 Parent and Child 24/7	with 14 hours key worker support each week
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Lot 3 Youth Offending Remand 24/7 with 20 hours key worker support each week

11. Clear referral pathways and procedures will be in place to ensure that the best possible placement fit is selected to respond to a child's bespoke needs, for example this will include if the placement is within a 7 miles radius from the Children's centre at Talfourd Place. The matching of a placement will involve the child's allocated social worker and be able to deliver appropriate responses in both planned and emergency situations.
12. The placement allocation will be as follows:
 - (i) Request first sent to Tier 1 providers with a response timeline of 72 hours.
 - (ii) If no match is made, the request will then be sent to Tier 2 providers to run alongside the Tier 1 requests.
 - (iii) If a suitable match is received from Tier 1 and Tier 2, priority will be given to the Tier 1 response.
 - (iv) In the event that two providers in the same Tier respond at the same time, then a decision will be taken based on the best possible placement fit.
13. There is no extension period for the framework. The prices are not index linked and are fixed for years 1 and 2. At the mid point review at the end of year 2 providers will then be asked to submit a new pricing schedule or confirm no price change.
14. The original intention was to award the contract on 27 May 2013, however additional time was taken before going to the market to work further on the specification and tender documents to ensure they were completely reflective of the councils needs.

Procurement project plan (Key Decision)

15. The table below provides and overview of the revised procurement timetable:

Activity	Completed by:
Place GW1 and GW2 on Forward Plan	15/08/2012
Approval of Gateway 1: Procurement Strategy Report	25/09/2012
Advertise the contract	5/10/2012
Closing date for expressions of interest	30/10/2012
Invitation to tender	02/05/2013
Information day for applicants	13/05/2013
Closing date for return of tenders	19/06/2013
Completion of evaluation of tenders	30/07/2013
DCRB Review Gateway 2 - Contract Award Report	7/08/2013
CCRB Review Gateway 2 - Contract Award Report	15/08/2013
Notification of forthcoming decision – despatch of cabinet agenda papers	27/08/2013
Approval of Gateway 2: Contract Award Report	17/09/2013

Activity	Completed by:
Scrutiny Call-in period and notification of implementation of Gateway 2 decision	27/09/2013
Contract award	30/09/2013
Add to Contract Register	30/09/2013
Contract start (Subject to TUPE)	14/10/2013
Publish Contract Award Notice in OJEU	Within 48 days of contract award
Contract completion date	13/10/2017

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Description of procurement outcomes

16. The successful delivery of this project has led to the establishment of a framework that reflects both current best practice and has an in-built programme of continuous improvement. More specific outcomes achieved include:
- A service capable of meeting the majority of the council's service requirements through both existing and new service providers.
 - The development of a clearer referral process which focuses on improved matches for young person's needs thereby resulting in better outcomes for children looked after.
 - An enhanced service specification built on extensive consultation with both internal key stakeholders and young people ensuring true client ownership and support of the service going forward.
 - New and enhanced performance monitoring arrangements which focus upon feedback from young people, social work teams and an independent reviewing officer.
 - Introduction of fixed pricing for standard placements and greater clarity on what is included within weekly costs.
 - Budget certainty via fixed costs for years 1 and 2.
 - A tiered system to provide on-going service provider incentives with regards to price and quality.
 - Establishment of a group to work with providers to seek continuous service improvements and incentives to maintain good performance.

Policy implications

17. The 'sufficiency duty' under section 22G of the Children's Act 1989 requires the council to secure sufficient accommodation for looked after children. This requires local authorities to take steps that secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient placements within the authority's area to meet the needs of young people that the local authority are looking after, and whose circumstances are such that it would be consistent with their welfare for them to be provided with placements which are within the local authority's area.
18. The council must consider the benefits of securing a range of accommodation through a number of providers. The accommodation must also meet the assessed needs of children.

19. This means having the right placement in the right location, at the right time which is a vital factor in improving placement stability. Stability is known as the critical success factor in relation to better outcomes for looked after children.

Tender process

20. As a Part B service, the council was not obliged to issue an OJEU notice, however in order to ensure all market areas were covered, a voluntary notice was issued. In addition, adverts were placed on the council's website, Community Action Southwark website, in Community Care and other similar trade journals. Existing providers and other known providers were also alerted to the advert being placed on the council's website.
21. The project team worked with service leads, corporate procurement, legal, children's services finance, contract and performance improvement team and health and safety services to develop the tender documentation including the service specification, pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) and the quality and pricing evaluation methodologies.
22. Following direction provided by the strategic director of children's and adults' services, prior to the ITT stage, the weightings applied to price and quality were altered from those reported at the Gateway 1 (procurement strategy approval) and those applied at PQQ stage. This change was made in response to recent national events and OFSTED recommendations to ensure those meeting children's needs and their placement experience are given greater importance in the contract award process. It was therefore decided to increase the percentage weighting allocated to quality from 30% to 40% (with price accordingly falling from 70% to 60%). Applicants invited to tender were informed of this decision.
23. As a Part B service, the full EU procurement rules did not apply, however the spirit of the restricted procedure was applied as follows:

Stage One – Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ)

24. Method statements were used to assess the technical section, for which there was a minimum pass mark. The short listing process also included an assessment of capacity. The financial, health and safety and equalities sections were assessed as pass or fail. For the financial assessment, a minimum financial operating threshold of £0.5m was set. In order to assess the financial and economic standing and technical capacity and ability PQQs were evaluated in accordance with the criteria as set out in the EU Procurement Regulations. The final PQQ evaluation methodology was signed off by the commissioning board.

Stage Two - Invitation to Tender

25. Applicants were invited to tender if they demonstrated that they had sufficient safeguarding and technical capacity and financial and economic standing.

Safeguarding Assessment - Satisfactory score of 2

26. The council introduced a further method statement concerning health and safety /safe guarding practice for all applicants to address, in response to issues identified at the health and safety assessment carried out at PQQ stage. Every

applicant was required to achieve at least a 'satisfactory' score in this, all the applicants passed.

Quality Assessment (40%)

27. Method statements were used to evaluate applicants against the following quality criteria, for which there was an overall pass mark of 55% (50% for specialist lots). No applicant that did not attain the minimum pass mark could progress to the price assessment stage. The method statements covered the following topic areas:

- Strategic plan and strategy to increase capacity to provide placements within a 7 mile radius of the council's children looked after Resource Centre, Talfourd Place.
- Strategy for minimising placement breakdown.
- Feedback from young people to shape and improve services
- Promoting health and attainment
- Approaches to transition including preparation for living independently.
- Specific requirements of the service specification

Price Assessment (60%)

28. A price evaluation model was prepared with finance colleagues and applicants were asked to complete a pricing schedule which required them to separately cost the various aspects of the service, including:

- Setting a standard weekly fee and specialist services for high, medium and low support, parent and child placements and placements subject to remand (court) status.
- Additional key worker hourly price.
- The council scored the sustainability of the standard weekly fee by assessing the breakdown of costs completed in the pricing schedule.
- The council sought a volume discount for the total spends.

Tender evaluation

29. Evaluation panels were made up of representatives from finance, children looked after service, young people in care, youth offending service and the quality assurance and safeguarding service. Officers from legal, corporate procurement and service commissioning were consulted as required throughout the process.

30. The council received 46 expressions of interest and all were sent out Pre Qualification Questionnaires (PQQs). On the return date, 18 completed PQQs were received and 28 applicants did not make a return. During the expressions of interest and the clarification process it was identified that some applicants were either not in a position to procure accommodation from the private sector or they did not meet the minimum financial operating threshold of £0.5m.

31. By applying the short listing criteria, a shortlist of 14 applicants was produced with 4 applicants failing to pass the technical assessment. The 14 shortlisted applicants were invited to tender and could apply for any or all of the service categories (Lots).

32. To support the applicants through the process and encourage on-going participation the council invited those shortlisted to an information / question and answer session and a tour of the children looked after, Resource Centre at Talfourd Place a few days after the invitation to tender documents (ITT) had been issued.
33. This venue was selected as the specification requires providers to facilitate foster carer/s supporting young people to make full use of the comprehensive range of services at this site. Resources and advisors are available which include a group worker, drop-in service, women's worker, personal adviser from 17.5 years, connexions adviser, employment adviser and looked after child nurse.
34. The 14 shortlisted applicants were invited to tender by email on 2 May 2013 with a response deadline for completed tenders of 12.30pm Wednesday 19 June 2013. 10 tenders were returned by this date. The other 4 applicants withdraw for commercial reasons and a further 1 applicant failed the quality evaluation.
35. The top ranked applicants for generalist and specialist services were allocated to Tier 1 and the remaining successful applicants for the framework were allocated to Tier 2. Under the evaluation methodology it was agreed that there would be an even split between tiers, unless there was an odd number, where the higher number would then go into Tier 1. Please see Appendix 1 for price submissions for all the service categories (Lots).
36. To support the selection process, applicants were required to provide core information concerning the total of young people they had available for looked after children aged 16 -18 as at April 2012. This was further broken down to include proximity to the council (7 miles) and ethnicity.
37. This information was then used by the council to ensure providers selected for the framework would have sufficient capacity to meet the level and range of identified needs. One of the specific aims of the framework process was to also attract new providers who whilst not being able to provide an immediate portfolio cohort of local accommodation and service could over the four year framework period, be able to work in partnership with the council to develop additional local capacity.
38. The table below is a summary of the scores and the number of providers in each tier for each service category:

Generalist

There was a total of 10 applicants, of which, 1 failed to pass the generalist quality threshold of 55%. From the total of 9 successful applicants, it is proposed to place 5 in Tier 1 and 4 in Tier 2 as indicated in para 35.

Proposed Applicants	Weighted Price	Quality Weighted	Total
Tier 1			
Provider A	49.29	29.20	78.49
Provider B	49.54	28.80	78.34
Provider C	45.38	25.60	70.98
Provider D	44.01	25.20	69.21
Provider E	43.78	23.20	66.98
Tier 2			
Provider F	44.75	22.00	66.75
Provider G	43.91	22.00	65.91
Provider H	40.84	23.60	64.44
Provider I	39.41	24.40	63.81

Specialist - Parent and Child

From a total of 9 successful generalist applicants, 6 applied for and passed the specialist threshold of 50%, it is proposed to place 3 in Tier 1 and 3 in Tier 2.

Proposed Applicants	Weighted Price	Quality Weighted	Total
Tier 1			
Provider H	47.68	24.00	71.68
Provider G	38.88	24.00	62.88
Provider A	29.75	32.00	61.75
Tier 2			
Provider C	35.32	24.00	59.32
Provider F	32.27	24.00	56.27
Provider I	30.65	21.60	52.25

Specialist – Alternative to Secure Remand

From a total of 9 successful generalist applicants, 5 applied for and passed the specialist threshold of 50%, it is proposed to place 3 in Tier 1 and 2 in Tier 2.

Proposed Applicants	Weighted Price	Quality Weighted	Total
Tier 1			
Provider I	49.04	24	73.04
Provider D	40.48	28	68.48
Provider G	38.00	22	60.00
Tier 2			
Provider F	35.83	20	55.83
Provider E	30.60	24	54.60

Plans for the transition from the old to the new contract

39. The council currently has interim service provision arrangements with a number of providers. Where these providers have been successful in being admitted to the framework, any existing placements with them will transfer onto the new

framework terms and conditions, including pricing. There are currently 13 providers, 5 have not applied, 3 have applied but failed, 4 have been proposed to Tier 2 and 1 has been proposed to Tier 1.

40. Where an existing provider has not been admitted to the new framework, either because they did not participate in the procurement process, or did and were unsuccessful, current placements will remain in place under existing terms and conditions and pricing, however monitoring and management arrangements will be aligned with those of the new framework so as to ensure service consistency.
41. Legal services have advised that the conditions applying to TUPE are not met in the engagement of providers on spot contracts. This was highlighted in the procurement documentation although making it clear that all applicants should seek their own independent advice and that no warranty was given regarding the effect or impact of TUPE.
42. In addition the following internal operational changes have/are due to be take place:
 - New service to be communicated through the Children's Service Transformation Programme (Social Works Matters).
 - Specific workshops to be set up with the independent reviewing officer team, placements service and senior children looked after management teams.
 - The joint Children's and Adults' Commissioning merger has incorporated the operational changes involved for commissioning staff and providers.
 - The development of a placement team's operational manual.
 - Information to be developed in the children looked after handbook for social work staff.
 - The establishment of a framework operational group to involve the participation of invited service providers for the purposes of developing the operation and processes of the framework and reviewing new guidance as it arises.
 - Communicating with all the existing providers who were not admitted to the framework to begin the alignment of management arrangements.

Plans for monitoring and management of the contract

43. The Directorate of Strategy and Commissioning, Children's and Adults' services is the department responsible for managing the contract. The performance mechanism for this framework includes:
 - Quarterly Monitoring
 - Annual Monitoring
 - Annual Performance Assessment
 - A Mid Term Tier Review
44. The council shall undertake service review processes to ensure providers are delivering the best possible quality and outcomes for its looked after children. These processes and the specification reflect best practice and are designed to keep young people safe. The council shall always be alerted if there are any concerns relating to the safety of a child/young person.
45. The key performance indicators for all young people include:
 - Unplanned moves

- Status of employment / education and training
 - Independent living skills and remedial steps
 - Arrested/warned/ reprimanded or convicted
 - Placement planning meetings
 - GP registration, dental and health assessments
 - Weekly sport/classes
 - Risk assessment (including health and safety practice)
46. The council recognises that some young people can be extremely challenging and may not achieve expected outcomes despite first class practice interventions. In these circumstances the provider's performance against any key performance indicator where the standard was not reached, shall be considered taking into account the provider's summary report for the young person and feedback provided from their social worker, independent reviewing officer and the council's placement panel. This additional information shall be used to determine whether it is fair to conclude that more could have been reasonably done by the provider to support the young person to meet their desired outcome(s).
47. An annual performance review will be carried out to assess performance concerning outcomes for children and to ensure providers are fit to remain in tier one. This assessment will include for example:
- Their capacity to provide placements within a 7 mile radius of the borough.
 - Outcomes for children and young people including success in supporting independence skills.
 - Feedback from young people
 - Unplanned endings of placements.
 - Approaches to safeguarding.
 - The specific requirements of the service specification.
48. The main aims of the annual performance assessment are to:
- Determine if a provider is achieving the required standards
 - Discuss a provider's performance
 - Identify any working/partnership areas which need development
 - Determine the impact of any actions and activities set at earlier annual performance assessment meetings and change or revise them, as appropriate.
 - Agree actions and activities to improve performance/working practices for both parties.
49. If the quarterly and annual review processes indicate any trend concerning outcomes or a serious concern relating to specific young person, providers may be required to develop an intervention/improvement plan in partnership with the commissioning team and children looked after service. Milestones and timescales for the intervention plan shall be agreed relating specifically to any issue, trend or the number and degree of key performance indicators which have not been met. In all cases however an absolute maximum period of six months for the intervention is permissible, at the end of which appropriate action will be taken if sufficient improvement is not evidenced.
50. To ensure providers maintain high standards, a major incentive has been built into the framework by way of the tier system. At the end of year two (contract

mid point) a pricing review will be undertaken to ensure on-going best value. It will be made clear to providers that to remain or move to tier one their service quality must be high and ongoing pricing must be competitive. Failure to remain financially competitive will result in the more expensive agencies risking demotion to Tier 2 whilst also providing an opportunity for providers in Tier 2 (who have met all the quality standards) to be promoted to Tier 1.

51. At the mid point of the four year framework agreement, the council's commissioning services team will review the placement capacity, performance and pricing of all framework providers in both Tier 1 and Tier 2. This review will be undertaken in January 2016 and may result in a provider being moved either up or down between Tiers.

Identified risks for the new contract

52. Table 1 below summaries the main risks for the new framework:

No.	Risk	Likelihood	Risk Control
1	On-going financial stability of providers.	Low	Option to move young people from their lodgings. Financial monitoring to form part of the contract management regime. e.g. Experian checks. Appropriate legal conditions have been included in the framework agreement in order to provide protective powers and remedies for the council.
2	Staff continue to spot purchase with known organisations outside of the framework.	Low	High profile launch of new framework. Referrals will be placed without the identification of the provider and the price. Monitoring of off framework spend.
3	Savings identified cannot be achieved. Prices may go up rather than down following the mid term review.	Low	The tier model has been applied successfully elsewhere. Financial factors such as the sibling and volume discounts should contribute to overall savings for the council. The mid year review will ensure continuous assessment of price and quality by benchmarking with London Care Services and neighbouring boroughs. The framework will reduce the volatility of placement prices and breakdown to reduce overall price pressures.

53. A performance bond was not required. However, where applicable providers will be required to supply a parent company guarantee.

Community impact statement

54. All providers have demonstrated their commitment to diversity and equal opportunities. As highlighted within the contract specification, all contracted arrangements meet specific cultural and language needs where applicable.
55. The service is accessible for young people to support their needs by promoting equality and responding to diversity including issues with respect to age, disability, faith, gender, ethnicity and sexuality.
56. The children looked after service has an equality impact assessment for 2012/14 which recognises the diverse needs for looked after children and the range of

supports required for them to become positive members of the community. This procurement is supporting both the 2012/14 children looked after equality action plan and 2012/13 children looked after-business plan.

Sustainability

Economic considerations

57. The details of the contract were advertised on the council's website which attracted the interest of the local providers. Consequently the providers are offering 382 placements that are within 7 miles of the council's Looked after Children's services, Talfourd Place.

Social considerations

58. The successful providers demonstrated that they met the London Living Wage (LLW) requirements for all their employees and other staff. For this service it was considered that best value was achieved by including this requirement as this enabled providers to employ suitably qualified professional social work staff to provide a quality service. On award, the associated quality improvements and cost implications will be monitored as part of the annual review of the contract.

Environmental considerations

59. The council supports keeping families and communities together and the award of the new framework is consistent with that objective. This also reduces the need for excessive car journeys and public transport thus contributing to the reduction in carbon emissions.

Market considerations

60. The 9 successful applicants are private organisations and 6 have fewer than 50 employees, 1 is between 50 and 250 employees and 2 are over 250 employees. From the 9 applicants, 1 is local to the borough of Southwark, 7 are regional and 1 is national.

Staffing implications

61. The operation and oversight of this framework will be managed within existing resources.

Financial implications (FI:CS0274/NA)

62. The objective of this proposal is to deliver an efficient and effective service. It is also intended to deliver savings over the 4 year life of the contract. It is estimated the new framework agreement will deliver savings of £30k per annum based on the price of placements. The assumption behind the savings is that the volume of the placements will remain similar to current levels. However, further reductions in spend could be achieved through an ongoing robust review and planning of the level of support hours provided; as young people become more independent and move from high through to lower levels of support hours.
63. Approved budget of £1.7m is available to deliver the existing service for the year 2013/14. The proposal has a similar budget profile, and subject to the annual

council budget setting process there will be sufficient budget for the term of the proposal.

Legal implications

64. Please see concurrent from the Director of Legal Services.

Consultation

65. An extensive staff consultation exercise was entered into at the commencement of the process, including the independent reviewing officer and placement teams. A significant number of focus groups were held including one for older children looked after / care leavers. In addition feedback was used from the extensive May 2012 OFSTED inspection questionnaire exercise and the February 2012 "Tell it as it Was" exercise by Speakerbox. Workshops were also held with current providers.

Other implications or issues

66. Not applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

67. This report is seeking approval to appoint a range of suppliers onto a framework that will provide semi independent living services which will supplement Southwark's existing foster carer service.
68. The report confirms that the procurement process followed was in line with the procurement strategy which was approved by Cabinet in September 2012.
69. The evaluation of the tender submissions was undertaken by a range of stakeholders using a weighted model 60/40% in favour of price.
70. The procurement of the framework formed part of a wider project for this service. Other work streams included a review of the business processes surrounding the service which should deliver a clearer referral process and enhanced monitoring arrangements. Paragraph 42 lists a number of operational changes that will be in place to support the running of the framework. Operating rules for the framework have been developed and will be communicated to all staff.
71. The framework has been designed to incorporate 'on going' competition within each of the lots. Throughout the life of the framework, performance and price will continue to influence the rankings within the lots. Also the two tier approach described in paragraph 12 will affect the level of opportunity that providers receive to secure work i.e. if appearing in Tier 1, a provider will get first opportunity to compete for placement. It will be possible for movement between tiers. A review of price and quality will take place at the mid point (after two years) of the framework and this will lead to the providers being re ranked.
72. Paragraphs 39 to 40 confirm the transitional arrangements from the existing arrangements to the new contracts. Where existing placements are with organisations that have been admitted onto the new framework, these will transfer to the terms and conditions of the new framework. Where existing

placements are with organisations that have not been successful in being admitted onto the framework or did not apply, these will continue to operate under the existing terms but will be monitored and managed in line with standards outlined in the new framework.

73. The monitoring arrangements for the framework and the placements that are made through it are described in paragraphs 43 to 51. The success of this framework will depend largely on it being used in accordance with the operating rules and performance monitoring feeding into the process. The running of the framework should therefore also be monitored to ensure that it is happening.

Director of Legal Services

74. The Director of Legal Services (“DLS”, acting through the Corporate team) notes the content of this report, which seeks approval of the award of a semi-independent living service framework for children in care to include the providers listed in Appendix 1 for a period of four years commencing on 14 October 2013 in the estimated maximum sum of £6.8m and notes that the strategic director of children’s and adults’ services will award contracts for individual placements on the council’s preferred terms through the framework.
75. On the basis of the information contained in this report, it is confirmed that this procurement was carried out in accordance with Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) and the relevant legal requirements. A contract award notice will need to be posted in the OJEU within 48 days of the award of the framework.
76. As part of the award process, there will need to be a standstill period of a minimum of 10 calendar days between notification of the successful providers and the award of the framework, so as to allow unsuccessful providers the opportunity to challenge (if they decide to) the award of the framework.
77. This framework is classified as a strategic procurement and therefore CSO 4.5.2 a) requires the cabinet or cabinet committee to authorise the award of this framework, after consideration by the corporate contracts review board (CCRB) of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services (FC13/059)

78. This report seeks cabinet approval to award a semi-independent living service framework for children in care. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 62 and 63 and show the potential savings this framework can deliver. Financial risks and mitigations are detailed in paragraph 52.
79. The strategic director of finance and corporate services notes the forecast savings in the future years of this contract, which will need to be identified during the budget setting process.
80. It is expected that robust monitoring arrangements will be in place to ensure this contract delivers the expected savings. Officer time to implement this framework will be contained within existing resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background documents	Held At	Contact
Gateway 1 - Procurement Strategy Approval Independent Fostering Services (Open report). This document is available to view on this web page: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=4246&Ver=4	Children's and Adults' Services	Mark Taylor 020 7525 3513

APPENDICES

No	Title
Appendix 1	List of Providers

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Dora Dixon Fyle, Children's Services	
Lead Officer	Romi Bowen, Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services	
Report Author	Shenis Hassan, Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	5 September 2013	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Head of Procurement	Yes	Yes
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate	Yes	Yes
Contract Review Boards		
Departmental Contract Review Board	Yes	Yes
Corporate Contract Review Board	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		5 September 2013