

Bolsover District Council

Executive

22nd July 2019

Award of 'Raising Aspirations' Contract

Report of Portfolio Holder - Partnerships and Transformation

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To advise of the outcome of the recent tender process for the Raising Aspirations contract and to seek approval of the appointment of Derbyshire Education Business Partnership (DEBP) to continue delivering the Raising Aspirations programme.

1 Report Details

Background

- 1.1 The concept of the 'Raising Aspirations Project' was initially developed by Bolsover Partnership in 2009. Using Working Neighbourhoods Funding (WNF), the Partnership commissioned a programme of co-ordination and interventions that addressed barriers relating to aspiration and engagement amongst vulnerable groups of young people.
- 1.2 Due to the success of the initial project, the approach became of interest to various Public Health Locality Teams across Derbyshire looking at the wider determinants of health. Using Public Health Locality Funding, Bolsover Partnership re-tendered the Raising Aspirations contract in 2015 and 2017 to work within selected schools across Derbyshire utilising the original concept and approach of the Bolsover centred project. The current contract and funding is in its second year of delivery and will continue until the end of the current academic year.

Current Position

- 1.3 With continued commitment of funding in 2019/20 from Derbyshire County Council's Localities and Place Based Budget, the Partnership Strategy and Policy Team has worked with Public Health colleagues to design and co-ordinate a tender for a 1 year contract to commence September 2019. The tender required work to be delivered in targeted schools across Derbyshire to raise aspirations and address the wider determinants of health. The three schools that will benefit from Raising Aspirations delivery in Bolsover District are Stubbin Wood Special School, Frederick Gent School and Heritage High School.

- 1.4 The deadline for tenders was 29th May 2019 and one submission was received from DEBP (the incumbent provider).
- 1.5 The tender evaluation panel met on 5th June 2019. As a result of this process, the evaluation panel recommended that the contract, subject to a 10 day standstill period, be awarded to DEBP.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 DEBP through their tender submission demonstrated a solid understanding of the specification requirements and an exceptional track record through their existing Raising Aspirations delivery and other initiatives.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 Targeted areas for activity have been agreed based on consultation with respective Public Health Locality Teams, taking account of other provision within schools, as well as GCSE attainment levels and free school meals data.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Do nothing – this was not an option as funding had already been allocated to Raising Aspirations delivery through Derbyshire County Council’s Public Health Localities and Place Based programme. If nothing was done, the funding would need to be returned to DCC.
- 4.2 Extend the contract with the incumbent provider – an extension of one year had already been agreed with the incumbent provider for the academic year 2018/19. A further extension was not possible under public procurement rules as advised by the Procurement department.
- 4.3 Undergo a procurement process – this was undertaken to determine the most suitable delivery partner. Only one provider tendered for the work (the incumbent provider) and the scores of their tender following an evaluation process are appended to this report.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 Derbyshire County Council Public Health allocated £231,000 from their Localities and Place Based budget to Raising Aspirations delivery for a two year period covering 2018/19 and 2019/20. Bolsover Partnership, on behalf of the other localities across Derbyshire, manages that funding and procures delivery centrally. Funding for 2019/20 of £115,500 is already held in Bolsover District Council’s bank account. Additionally Bolsover Partnership allocated a further £7,500 for targeted delivery to enhance the core offer available through DCC’s funding and this is also held in the Council’s bank account. The overall contract value for 2019/20 is £123,000. With this in mind, there is no risk from a financial point of view.

5.1.2 The risk of entering into contract with DEBP is considered to be very low given that they have consistently delivered high quality and impactful provision since 2015.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

5.2.1 The work has been procured in line with public procurement regulations so there are no legal implications. DEBP will be required to adhere to data protection regulations as part of the contract.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

5.3.1 The contract will continue to be managed by the Partnership Strategy and Policy Team. It is anticipated that contract meetings between DEBP, the Partnership Strategy and Policy Team and Public Health Locality Leads will take place either quarterly or bi-annually to review progress against target outcomes.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Executive note the contents of this report and approve the appointment of Derbyshire Education Business Partnership to deliver the Raising Aspirations programme from September 2019 to August 2020.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	<p>Unlocking our Growth Potential Supporting our Communities to be Healthier, Safer, Cleaner and Greener</p>

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
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