

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of the Executive on 2nd March 2026

**Contract Award to enable the Bolsover Partnership to administer their
'Children and Young People' Project**

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships, Health & Wellbeing

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officers	Arron Johnson – Policy Officer Cheryl Staples – Programme & Projects Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

Bolsover Partnership seek Executive’s approval to award an 18-month ‘Children & Young People’ contract, to the value of £145,000, to the organisation awarded through the tender process.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

1.1 **Bolsover Partnership** is a collaborative bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. Its purpose is to drive integrated and inclusive local development by aligning efforts across multiple thematic areas. The Partnership operates as a cross-cutting body, coordinating strategic activity and policy across the following key domains:

- **Business, Skills and Employment**
- **Health and Well-Being**
- **Children and Young People**
- **Community Safety**
- **Culture and Place**
- **Community and Voluntary Partners**

1.2 Bolsover Partnership serves as a strategic platform for sharing local priorities, pooling resources, and ensuring that initiatives are responsive to the needs of communities in Bolsover District. It plays an important role in shaping place-based policy and delivering joined-up solutions that reflect the district’s unique social, economic, and cultural landscape.

1.3 Children and young people in Bolsover District face significant health inequalities, strongly linked to wider determinants such as education, employment, and socio-economic conditions. These issues are concentrated in the most deprived communities.

- 1.4 Key challenges compared to Derbyshire and the East Midlands:
- **Higher levels of** multiple deprivation, youth unemployment, lack of qualifications, long-term sickness/disability, child poverty, community needs, digital exclusion, obesity (adults and children), mortality (all causes and cardiovascular disease, and alcohol-related harm).
 - **Lower levels of** higher education participation, degree-level qualifications, life expectancy, healthy life expectancy, and smoking cessation.
- 1.5 Unemployment and low skills drive poor health outcomes, fostering risky behaviours (smoking, alcohol misuse, poor diet, inactivity), which lead to chronic conditions like cardiovascular disease.
- 1.6 Bolsover Partnership aims to address these challenges through a targeted, place-based approach, prioritising areas with the greatest disparities.
- 1.7 The Partnership emphasises youth engagement, noting a current lack of cohesive involvement of young people in decision-making. The project will focus on creating a strong youth voice and meaningful participation in service development.
- 1.8 This aligns with EMCCA's strategic priorities on youth leadership. EMCCA has established a Youth Committee to promote youth-led regional development. Bolsover Partnership seeks to collaborate with EMCCA and local partners to shape inclusive, youth-informed policies that reflect young people's needs and aspirations.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Bolsover Partnership (via their Commissioning Board), is looking to commission an organisation to deliver innovative solutions and approaches to increase youth participation and youth leadership within Bolsover District, aligning with EMCCA's strategic vision and priorities for youth engagement. The purpose of this project is to empower young leaders, amplify youth voices, and embed young people in decision-making processes at all levels, to inform service development and delivery.
- 2.2 A detailed Commissioning Brief was produced [Commissioning Brief - CYPR PROJECT RESTRICTED V5.doc](#) and following engagement with the BDC Procurement team, the Invitation to Tender was issued (ref BDC/028/2025), with the result being that 3 bids were received by the closing date of 1/12/25.
- 2.3 Members of the Partnership's Commissioning Board evaluated each response (having received training, if required, from BDC's Procurement Officer) and originally met for the Tender Moderation Meeting on 9/12/25 – however, this meeting wasn't quorate, so a further meeting took place on 5/1/26, with BDC's Procurement Officer present. The meeting on 5/1/26 was quorate and the winning bidder was decided via a thorough evaluation and consensus scoring method.
- 2.4 As BDC are the Accountable Body for the Bolsover Partnership, and the amount of the contract is £145,000, this is a Key Decision – hence this report to inform Members of the outcome.

2.5 The Bolsover Partnership needs to award the contract in time for it to commence in March 2026. Should such a decision be granted on 2/3/26, this will allow time for the 'call in' period to take place, together with the bidders being advised of the outcome.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 As previously detailed under 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6 Bolsover Partnership aims to address the various challenges being faced by Children & Young People within the Bolsover District. The proposed project is therefore considered 'key' – indeed, this aligns with EMCCA's strategic priorities on youth leadership.

4. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Any further delay would be detrimental to the project.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Executive approve to award an 18-month 'Children & Young People' contract, to the value of £145,000 to Direct Education Business Partnership awarded through the tender process.

Approved by Councillor Jane Yates, Leader of the Council

IMPLICATIONS

A. Finance and Risk	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details: There are no direct financial implications for the Council, as the costs will be met by the Bolsover Partnership from their reserves.		
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		

B. Legal (including Data Protection)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		

C. Staffing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details: No additional staffing will be required.		
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		

D. Environment	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.</i>		
Details: N/A		

E. Equality and Diversity	
<p><i>You can assess the impact by considering whether the equality evidence indicates potential differential impact on each protected characteristic group or provides an opportunity to improve equality in an area.</i></p> <p><i>We ask colleagues to do an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) when refreshing policies/guidance/plans or creating new ones.</i></p> <p>Have you considered equality impacts in relation to the topic of this report?</p> <p>If this is a new or refresh of a policy, guidance or plan, have you carried out an EIA?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

DECISION INFORMATION

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies:</p> <p>Is the decision a Key Decision?</p> <p>A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District, or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:-</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.</p> <p>Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.</p>	<p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>District Wards Significantly Affected: <i>(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</i></p> <p>Please state below which wards are affected or tick All if all wards are affected:</p>	<p>All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>All key decisions are subject to Scrutiny call-in unless the call-in period is to be waived, however, exemption from call-in is only with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</p> <p>Is this Key Decision subject to Scrutiny Call-In?</p> <p>If No, has the Monitoring Officer agreed?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i></p> <p> Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Relevant Portfolio Holder</p>
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Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing
Customers, Economy

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No.	Title

<p>Background Papers <i>(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 Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i></p>