

# Metropolitan Borough of Sefton

## CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT BOOK

(Record of decisions taken in accordance with delegated powers)

### Cabinet Member- Vulnerable Children and Young People

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**Subject Matter:** - This report supports the authorities continued membership of the latest version of the Northwest Leaving Care Commissioning Framework and the ongoing procurement of services through this framework.

#### 1.0 Introduction/ Background

Leaving Care services (16+) provide graduated needs led independence preparation for young people over the age of 16 who are preparing to leave care services. These services are provided through semi independence and group living placements. These placements are currently procured via a North West Regional Commissioning Framework, which ends on the 30-9-15. This framework is shared with 23 other North Western LA's including our Liverpool City Region neighbours.

A renewal framework has now been developed on behalf of the region by Tameside Council. Approval is sought to maintain our membership of the new framework and continue to use it as a means of procuring leaving care support in a legally appropriate manner. The new framework contract commences on the 1-10-15 and will last for four years on a 2 year +1 +1 basis. This means that the contract is initially for two years with the ability to renew it for a year at the end of year 2 and year 3.

Tameside will act as the contract holder and main legal entity in relation to this framework and the contract has been assessed by Tameside's legal and procurement services in order to ensure its legislative compliance. The authorities who then utilise the contract will take part as participants. The approach whereby one authority acts as the contract holder is a common approach to shared regional framework development and matches the process underpinning all of the framework agreements currently utilised by Sefton to procure services.

This replacement framework aims to offer a Leaving Care/Independent Living Service for looked after young people where they can be supported to acquire necessary skills in preparation for living independently. They need to be supported to experiment safely with their increasing freedom and develop responsibilities associated with adulthood, whilst still having the appropriate level of support from an experienced and qualified staff team. The service will

enable young people, via the support delivered, to move on from a permanent, full time care setting and increase the likelihood of them maintaining future accommodation resources.

It will accomplish this by inviting quality assessed providers of semi independence/group living, floating support with accommodation and floating support services to tender for inclusion on the replacement framework.

The replacement arrangement will take the form of a Dynamic Purchasing Framework which introduces a number of improvements when compared to the current framework.

The differences being that:

- Entrance to the framework will be based on quality, not cost.
- New providers will be able to enter the framework (dependant on quality) every four months during the life of the contract.
- The authority will not be bound by any regional pricing schedule and will be able to negotiate its own prices for services based on our local market.
- The authority will have the option of identifying an indicative price when placing cases on the framework or just a description of service user needs with a view to encouraging providers to bid competitively.

The system and processes that surround the current framework will not require significant change.

## **2.0 Financial Implications**

The continuation of Sefton's membership of the Regional Leaving Care Framework will provide a legislatively sound basis for the ongoing identification and purchase of leaving care services for the young people of Sefton. Furthermore it will be readily accessible to new providers.

The framework will also enable Sefton to negotiate its own prices in relation to its purchase of leaving care services set against the needs of its young people leaving care and local conditions. This will enable Sefton to ensure that it achieves the best possible mix of quality and price.

## **3.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that Sefton renew its membership of the Northwest Leaving Care (16+) Purchasing Framework and procure leaving care services through this framework.

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*Date- 02/07/15*

*Marilyn S. Bonham*

*Signature-*

*Designation- Head of Vulnerable Children and Young People*