

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:-	Cabinet Member for Communities and Cohesion
2.	Date:-	18 th November, 2013
3.	Title:-	Restorative Justice – waiving of Standing Orders
4.	Directorate:-	Neighbourhood and Adult Services Directorate

5. Summary

The restorative justice service is currently commissioned from REMEDI on behalf of Rotherham Youth Offending Services (YOS). They work with young offenders to liaise with victims of crime on application of restorative justice.

The current contract has been extended until 30th September, 2013. A waiver is now being requested to extend this contract by a further six-month period to 31st March, 2014. This waiver will allow the completion of a sub regional tendering approach to be undertaken, led by Sheffield Council, to produce a joint tender for four services. Those services are reparation, victim support, the co-ordination of referral order panels, including the recruitment and training of volunteers, and also the recruitment and training of appropriate adults. Rotherham is participating in the tender for three of the four services, reparation, victim support and the co-ordination of referral order panels.

6. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

6.1 Waive (in accordance with Standing Order 47.6.3 the requirement to invite at least three written quotations for contracts valued at more than £20,000 but less than £50,000) for delivery of the Restorative Justice Service for the period 1st October, 2013 until 31st March, 2014.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Restorative Justice – Current Position

REMEDI are commissioned to deliver to a service specification supporting young offenders in Rotherham to liaise with victims of crime across the borough and deliver a restorative justice approach. The value of the current annual contract is £59,000.

REMEDI currently provide similar services for all four South Yorkshire Authorities. The intention of the joint commissioning approach with Sheffield Council is to incorporate a minimum of a 20% reduction in costs for delivery of the Rotherham element which would equate to a saving of £11,800. A budget of £24,549 has been identified to cover the costs of provision of co-ordination of referral order panels.

The tender was initially to be completed and awarded by 30th September 2013. When the tender was originally advertised, REMEDI were the only respondent. The provision provided by REMEDI previously was for all reparation work in Rotherham. In Sheffield most of this work was also carried out by REMEDI with some delivered by Sheffield's own staff. The tender required respondents to quote for all the work in both Boroughs. Unfortunately the tender received from REMEDI only costed out current working arrangements and failed to cost out the work being picked up from Sheffield's own staff. Despite being acceptable to Rotherham, advice from Sheffield's own legal department has been that the tender be re-advertised as it potentially opens them up to a legal challenge from other potential providers should they simply agree a figure with REMEDI for the additional work originally omitted from their submission.

The proposed waiver will allow sufficient time for the open tender process for the four services to be completed for the larger contract value.

8. Finance

The current commissioned service from REMEDI costs £59K pa. The intention is to achieve improved Value for Money and a reduction of at least 20% contributing a minimum of £11.8K to savings for CYPS. Funding for this service originates from the Youth Justice Board.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

That should the service not be recommissioned then the outcomes for young offenders and victims of crime through restorative justice will not be achieved.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

This work impacts particularly on one of the four Big Things within the recently revised Children and Young People's Plan namely Tackling Inequality as well as both the Enjoy and Achieve and the Making a positive contribution Action Plans.

11. Background Papers and Consultation – N/A

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