

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 13 January 2014

ITEM 7(h)
Title:
**Family Wise Subcontract
Opportunity**

Portfolio(s): Children, Young People & Learning

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Ian Grayson

Report from Directorate: Children, Young People & Learning

**Report Author: Jean Griffiths,
Head of Children, Young People & Learning** **Tel: 643 8782**

Wards affected: All Wards

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to accept an offer of subcontracting by The Wise Group to deliver the FamilyWise contract within North Tyneside.

1.2 Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

1. approves the proposed offer by the Wise Group for the Authority to take up delivery of the FamilyWise contract within North Tyneside;
2. authorises the Head of Children, Young People and Learning in consultation with the Head of Finance and Commercial Services to accept the proposal; and
3. delegates authority to the Head of Law and Governance in consultation with the Head of Children, Young People and Learning and the Head of Finance and Commercial Services to approve the terms and conditions of contract which shall apply to the sub-contracting arrangement.

1.3 Forward Plan:

This report appears on the Forward Plan for the period 11 December 2013 to 31 July 2014.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report is relevant to the Council Action Plan 2013-14 – Priority 1 “Our People” Part B - “Be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people”.

1.5 Information:

- 1.5.1 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) "Support for Families with Multiple Problems" provision is funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and aims to tackle entrenched worklessness in England by progressing people in families with multiple problems closer to employment.
- 1.5.2 The provision is aimed at families with multiple problems and complex needs where:
- At least one member of the family receives a DWP working age benefit; and
 - Either no one in the family is working, or there is a history of worklessness across generations.
- This provision is voluntary and focuses on providing a whole family approach, making support available to individual family members across the generations.
- 1.5.3 The Wise Group were selected to deliver the ESF Support for Families with Multiple Problems contract for DWP within the North East Contract Package Area. Sub-contracting is allowed by one tier, therefore allowing providers and local authorities to deliver within their area.
- 1.5.4 The Wise Group decided to deliver this support themselves in North Tyneside. Whilst The Wise Group have had some issues in delivering the service, the Authority is in a much better position to be able to identify and work with families with multiple problems where we already have contact and have built a rapport and trust through existing programmes of work, including the existing Troubled Families programme, whilst integrating the programme with other Council teams.
- 1.5.5 An approach has now been made to the Authority to enquire about our willingness to take over direct delivery of this contract within North Tyneside on behalf of The Wise Group through a subcontracting arrangement.
- 1.5.6 This delivery would commence in February 2014 with referrals onto the programme being accepted until December 2014 with the possibility of this being extended.
- 1.5.7 The provision is suitable for either those who are job ready or those furthest from the labour market but able to achieve progress measures within 52 weeks. The provision will focus on any support for benefit claimants to move towards work. This can include achievement of a series of 'progress measures', as well as direct entry into work.
- 1.5.8 The value of the contract will be in the region of £70,000 to £90,000 (to be confirmed in negotiation with The Wise Group and subject to performance).

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report.

Option 2

Cabinet may decide not to approve the recommendations as set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

- 1.7.1 Option 1 is the recommended option as this will allow the Authority to accept the subcontracting opportunity and allow eligible North Tyneside residents to take up support. The acceptance of the contract will also bring a management fee into the Authority.
- 1.7.2 Wise Group subcontracting will provide an important service to eligible North Tyneside residents that will help individuals and their families gain new skills in life and move forward to a positive future and making a positive contribution to the borough.
- 1.7.3 If option 2 is selected the Authority will not accept the subcontracting opportunity from The Wise Group. As The Wise Group have struggled to directly deliver the contract themselves, this would leave families with multiple and complex needs in the borough with a reduced level of support than could otherwise be provided.

1.8 Contact officers:

Jean Griffiths, Head of Children, Young People & Learning, tel. (0191) 643 8782
Mark Barrett, Senior Manager - Education to Employment, tel. (0191) 643 6061
Jill Baker, Senior Manager, Supporting Families, tel. (0191) 643 6462
Anthony Gollings, Financial Business Manager, tel. (0191) 643 8071

1.9 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report:

North Tyneside Council FamilyWise Background

Details of the ESF Support for Families with Multiple Problems programme can be found on the DWP Website at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/supplying-dwp/what-we-buy/welfare-to-work-services/european-social-fund/support-for-families/>

Specific details on the FamilyWise programme in the North East can be found on the Wise Group website at: http://www.thewisegroup.co.uk/content/default.asp?page=s21_15

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

Should this proposal be agreed the exact payments by The Wise Group will be based upon performance of the Authority.

A full assessment has been made on the delivery expectations, costs and income of this programme. The performance levels experienced by neighbouring Authorities delivering this programme have been used to inform this. Based upon this assessment it is envisaged the value of contract will be in the region of £70,000 to £90,000 (to be confirmed in negotiation with The Wise Group and subject to performance). The costs of service delivery, including an appropriate management fee, will be met by this income.

2.2 Legal

A robust contracting arrangement will need to be in place with The Wise Group detailing the Authority's liabilities. The Authority will need to ensure it is able to deliver the contract and meet its obligations.

The Local Government (Goods and Services) Act 1970 allows the Authority to deliver services to another public body, in this case services will be delivered to ESF, albeit on a sub-contracting basis. In this case the Authority may enter into arrangements and payment terms which are deemed appropriate.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Officers from Education to Employment, Safeguarding and Preventative Services, Financial Strategy and Planning, and Legal and Governance have been involved in developing the proposal to deliver this subcontracting opportunity on behalf of The Wise Group.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Consultation has been ongoing with The Wise Group since the inception of the Families with Multiple Problems contract award by DWP. As time has progressed, they have struggled to achieve the performance rates and delivery outcomes expected within North Tyneside. This underperformance is due to a lack of knowledge of the local area and inadequate referral routes for individuals to access the programme. At this point an approach was made to the Authority to enquire about the Authority's willingness to take over direct delivery within North Tyneside, based on an understanding and acceptance that the Authority has the experience and knowledge to fully address these issues.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

Equality and Diversity issues have been fully considered and addressed as part of the process to date. These issues will continue to be considered throughout the project scoping and delivery process. It is considered that the opportunity will have a significant positive effect upon equality of access and opportunity to support and jobs for residents of local communities.

2.6 Risk management

Any relevant risks associated with the acceptance of external grant have been considered including financial risks, which have been addressed through a full financial assessment.

2.7 Crime and disorder

The delivery of this programme will contribute to the wider Troubled Families programme, which has a shared objective of reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Head of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Strategic Manager, Policy, X
Partnerships, Performance and Communications