

CABINET MEETING – 7 NOVEMBER 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Tyne & Wear Care Alliance Training Provider Procurement

Author(s):

Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

Purpose of Report:

To obtain approval to establish a Standing List of training providers using a Framework Agreement, in order to replace the existing Framework Agreement that expires in November 2012. The projected overall value of the expected funding exceeds £1 million over the next two years. The funding has been made available from the Skills Funding Agency for the provision of training to the independent social care sector.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to agree:

- I. The development of a new Framework Agreement;
- II. The expenditure of the SFA funding in excess of £1 million over the next 2 years.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

Adoption of the Framework approach is recommended in accordance with EC Directives. A current Framework Agreement is in operation, with an expiry date of 30th November 2012. The new Framework Agreement is required in order to continue the work of Tyne & Wear Care Alliance beyond that date.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

Extend the existing Framework Agreement.

Impacts analysed:

Equality ☒ Privacy ☐ Sustainability ☐ Crime and Disorder ☐

<p>Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</p> <p>No</p>	<p>Scrutiny Committee</p>
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**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND
ADULT SERVICES**

**SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY'S ADULT SKILLS BUDGET ALLOCATION TO
THE TYNE & WEAR CARE ALLIANCE**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To obtain approval to redraw the Tyne & Wear Care Alliance existing framework agreement in order to utilise additional funding made available by the Skills Funding Agency for the provision of training to the independent social care sector.

2. Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to agree:
- (a) The development of a new Framework Agreement;
 - (b) The expenditure of the additional SFA funding.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Tyne & Wear Care Alliance is a partnership hosted by the Council and funded jointly by the Skills Funding Agency, the Sector Skills Council Skills for Care and the Strategic Health Authority. The partnership exists in order to support and transform training provision in the Independent Social Care sector across Tyne & Wear.
- 3.2 In order to achieve the objective of providing training provision for the Independent Social Care Sector, the Partnership gathers Labour Market Information and Workforce Development data from its members. The Partnership then commissions training based on the requirements of members to support the National Minimum Standards for Social Care.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 In accordance with Council requirements, the Partnership developed a Commissioning and Procurement Strategy under the guidance and advice of the Corporate Procurement Manager.
- 4.2 Taking account of the applicable EU procurement Directives, a tendering exercise was undertaken, resulting in a framework of approved training providers, ranked according to the quality of training provision and their price.

- 4.3 The use of the framework agreement has had a significant, positive impact on the amount of individuals achieving vocational skills qualifications in the social care sector.
- 4.4 The framework agreement also makes best use of resources and generates efficiencies through the aggregation of services which if procured separately would lead to substantial increased costs.
- 4.5 The current term of the framework agreement expires on 30th November 2012.

5. Reasons for Decision

- 5.1 To take full advantage of the efficiencies generated through the aggregation of services in the existing framework agreement with training providers without undertaking a further smaller scale procurement which would be unlikely to achieve the same cost advantages.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 Extend the contracts of Training Providers under the existing Framework Agreement.
- 6.2 It is recommended that this option should not be taken for the following reasons:
- 6.3 The existing Framework Agreement has already been extended from November 2011, in accordance with the terms of the training contracts.
- 6.4 The current Framework Agreement has been in place since November 2009, with training providers committed to delivering training at prices agreed at that time. Extending the Framework Agreement further would risk training providers withdrawing from the Standing Lists as they are unable to reflect current market prices for their services.
- 6.5 The Tyne & Wear Care Alliance could not continue the current level of service provision if training providers withdrew from the Standing Lists.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 Consultation and guidance have been taken from the Corporate Procurement Team and Legal Services.

8. Background Papers

There were no background papers relied upon to complete this report.

