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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; OD</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/47/17/BH</b>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Tender for Counselling &amp; Therapy Using Pupil Equity Funding</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain Committee approval, pursuant to Contract Standing Order 13.3, for the use of a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting in a tender for counselling and therapy services.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 As detailed within a report to the Education and Communities Committee in March, Pupil Equity Funding has been allocated to schools, targeted at those children most affected by the poverty related attainment gap. The funding has now been allocated to schools in every local authority area in Scotland and is distributed on the basis of the numbers of pupils in P1-S3 known to be eligible and registered for free school meals. Inverclyde Council's total school funding that has been allocated is £2,450,400.
- 2.2 Head Teachers and Senior Officers within Education Services have researched the areas that they see as having the highest impact on narrowing the poverty-related attainment gap. This research had led a list of priority spends and this includes counselling and therapy services.
- 2.3 The programme of counselling and therapy includes several schools who have been allocated with funding and the proposed cumulative spend is in the region of £125,000. The total spend is subject to the Contract Standing Orders, the requirement to obtain Best Value and therefore must be tendered.
- 2.4 The costs for these services are driven by the salaries for the professionals involved in their delivery. These salaries tend to be standard and therefore there is not a great variance in terms of cost from service provider to service provider. There is a requirement on getting the best service for the money that is available and this places the emphasis on the quality of provision. Given these factors the proposal is to tender on the basis of a 60% quality weighting and 40% price.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Committee approve, pursuant to Contract Standing Order 13.3, the use of a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting in the forthcoming tender for counselling and therapy services.

**Wilma Bain**

**Corporate Director Environment Regeneration and Resources**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 As noted within the March report to the Education and Communities Committee, The First Minister launched the Scottish Attainment Challenge in February 2015 to narrow the poverty-related attainment gap. Initially seven Challenge Authorities were identified, including Inverclyde, and the Challenge Authorities were asked to submit bids focused on raising attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing for pupils in SIMD 1 and 2 in the primary sector.
- 4.2 In June 2016 the Challenge Authorities were asked to submit bids for secondary schools in their areas. The Inverclyde bid was accepted by the Scottish Government in September 2016 and the Inverclyde Attainment Challenge work now covers the whole of the Broad General Education.
- 4.3 As part of the Scottish Government Attainment Challenge fund, the Scottish Government has committed a further £120 million allocated directly to schools to reduce the attainment gap linked to deprivation. In 2017/18, for each child in a publicly funded primary or secondary school who is eligible and registered for free school meals, the school will receive £1,200. This is known as Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). The 2017/18 allocation of PEF was calculated using the most recently available Healthy Living Survey and Pupil Census.

## **5.0 TENDER STRATEGY**

- 5.1 Schools can spend their money on a variety of interventions which include working in partnerships, staffing, procurement of resources and equipment and ICT. Counselling and therapy for pupils has been identified as a high priority intervention with a high likelihood of success on the basis of the research conducted by officers and teachers.
- 5.2 In line with the Scottish Government's strategy 'Getting it Right for Every Child' we recognise that each child is individual and some require alternative support to access education fully. Counselling offers a safe, confidential place for children to talk about experiences that may be confusing, painful or uncomfortable. These experiences may exist within their own home, community or at school and will be impacting upon the child, their relationships and their readiness to learn. Youth counsellors utilise a combination of therapeutic play, art therapy and talking therapy which help children and young people understand their feelings and emotions, facilitating their personal growth and development. It also helps to raise their attendance, confidence, self-esteem and improve their relationships with family, friends and wider society.
- 5.3 The salaries for the professionals involved in the delivery of the service make up a large percentage of the total costs. There will be some administration and management costs to be taken into account but as salaries tend to be standard there will not to be a great variance in terms of cost from service provider to service provider. There are a reasonable number of service providers and therefore competition in the market, however, as this is a newly identified area of spend, the capacity of suppliers may not be mature enough to match demand and it would not be suitable to award the entire contract to 1 organisation.
- 5.4 The tender will deliver a framework with a variety of providers capable of making a significant contribution to narrowing the poverty-related attainment gap in partnership with our schools. The most appropriate providers will be selected on the basis of their costs as well as their understanding of the approach that is required and their capacity to deliver over the duration of the proposed programme of activity and expected outcomes.

## 6.0 Finance

### 6.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
PEF		17/18	£125,000	N/A Grant Funded	Inverclyde Council Grant fund received on 23/5/17

## Legal

7.3 There are no matters of a legal nature arising from this report.

## Human Resources

7.4 There are no matters of a HR nature arising from this report.

## Equalities

7.5 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

## Repopulation

7.6 A Procurement Strategy which supports local opportunities will have a positive impact on the Council's repopulation agenda.

## 8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Corporate Procurement Manager and Head of Legal & Property Services have been consulted.

## 9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.