
Report To:	Health and Social Care Committee	Date:	22 August 2019
Report By:	Louise Long Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)	Report No:	SW/41/2019/SMcA
Contact Officer:	Sharon McAlees Head of Children and Family and Criminal Justice Services	Contact No:	01475 715282
Subject:	Change of Weightings for the Forthcoming Tender for Children's Advocacy Service		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to change the tender weightings in relation to the forthcoming tender process for a Children's Advocacy Service in Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The tender for the provision of a Children's Advocacy Service in Inverclyde is being prepared for advertising. As in all cases with Social Care Service provision, the quality of the care service is of paramount importance. In light of this, it is recommended that the Children's Advocacy Service contract is awarded on a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting split to help ensure the required quality of service and best value cost of service can be procured. This is a reversal of the weighting split in the Contract Standing Order 13.2.
- 2.2 Recent Inverclyde HSCP tenders have been conducted successfully using a 60% Quality weighting. Children's Advocacy Services are already provided in Inverclyde by two providers the overall costs estimated at £100,000 per annum.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Health and Social Care Committee:

Approves the use of a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting in the forthcoming tender for the Inverclyde HSCP Children's Advocacy Service and therefore suspends contract Standing Order 13.2.

Louise Long
Corporate Director
Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Access to Independent Children's Advocacy Services is recognised as contributing to health and social care policy goals such as health improvement, equality and involving Individuals as partners in care. The Council has a statutory responsibility, to provide access to independent advocacy for children and young people under 18. It also includes children and young people looked after at home or a child or young person subject to child protection procedures.
- 4.2 In addition to the legislative requirement to provide access to Independent Children's Advocacy, the 2013 Guidance issued by the Scottish Government and the Principles and Standards issued by the Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance (SIAA) recognises that Independent Advocacy ensures equality of access to services particularly for those groups which may otherwise be excluded.
- 4.3 The provision of advocacy seeks to ensure the ability of an Individual to have an equal voice in consideration of response to their needs. Accordingly, the provision of Independent Children's Advocacy is wider than the Council's statutory duty as children and young people should be able to get involved in discussions and decisions that may affect their lives; this may be directly or with help from a friend or adult. Where support is needed, advocacy is one way that a child or young person's voice can be heard.
- 4.4 Children's Advocacy Services in Inverclyde are currently delivered by two organisations, one providing advocacy for children looked after at home and the other providing advocacy for children in foster care and residential services within and outwith Inverclyde.
- 4.5 A tender process is about to commence to implement the required new service contract to replace the current arrangement when it expires on 30th September 2019. This will facilitate the continuation and improvement on a quality service provision in a cost effective manner.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The tender for the provision of the Children's Advocacy Service will be advertised. As in all cases with social care services, the quality of the care service is of paramount importance.
- 5.2 Officers from the Service have reviewed their experience of the current Children's Advocacy Service and recognise the need to structure the tender to include Children Looked After at Home, Children accommodated in Foster Care and Residential Care within Inverclyde and outwith Inverclyde and Specialist Advocacy under one provision delivered by one Provider.
- 5.3 The aim of the tender is to accurately describe the high quality and cost effective service required in the Inverclyde area and identify the service provider required to deliver the service which will ensure that all children and young people receive the same standard of service. An essential factor in achieving this aim is to weigh the quality aspects of the service more than the cost. Where the price weighting is high, it leaves less scope to reward good quality providers.
- 5.4 It is recommended that the Children's Advocacy Service contract is awarded on a 60% Quality and 40% Cost of Service weighting split to help ensure the required quality of service and best value cost of service can be procured. This is a reversal of the weighting split in the Contract Standing Order 13.2.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

The tender will be structured and managed in a way which ensures that the costs included in and the overall value of any contract award resulting from the tender will be met within the overall HSCP budget.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

6.2 Legal

The Head of Legal and Property Services, the Corporate Procurement Manager and the Chief Financial Officer have been consulted on the terms of the report

6.3 Human Resources

None

6.4 Equalities

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.

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO - This report does not affect or propose any major strategic decision.

6.5 Repopulation

None

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services, the Corporate Procurement Manager and the Chief Financial Officer have been consulted on the terms of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 N/A