
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Cabinet

23 January 2018

Title: **Award of Contract - Independent Advocacy Services**

Purpose: To advise Cabinet of the result of the tender exercise for a provision of an independent advocacy service.

Recommendation: Agree to approve the award of contract to AIMS Advocacy.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 North Ayrshire Council currently commissions an independent advocacy service for adults, aged 16 and over, who are a member of a recognised community care group or a carer/relative.
- 1.2 The current contract will expire on 31 March 2018. To comply with Council Standing Orders, EU Procurement Rules and Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 (SSI 2015/446) (as amended) a formal procurement exercise has been undertaken.
- 1.3 The Contract term is to commence on 1 April 2018 for a period of three years with the option to extend for a further two 12 month periods.

2. Background

- 2.1 A formal contract notice was advertised on 20 July 2017 under the Open Procedure in the Official Journal of the European Union and Public Contracts Scotland Procurement Portal. The return date was 21 August 2017 at 12.00 noon.
- 2.2 The contract notice attracted 8 expressions of interest from a range of potential Service Providers. 1 bid was submitted for evaluation following Invitation to Tender.
- 2.3 The tender received was evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria of 30% price, 70% quality.

- 24 A comprehensive bench-marking exercise was carried out in regard to comparative pricing within North Ayrshire for advocacy services and other local authority pricing. The evaluation panel were satisfied that the price submitted demonstrates best value for money.

3. Proposals

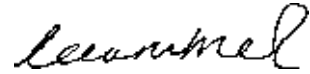
- 3.1 It is proposed to award the contract to AIMS Advocacy.

4. Implications

Financial:	The total value of the contract is £1,488,880. A budget of £1,500,000 is available for this contract.
Human Resources:	None.
Legal:	In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Contract Procedure Rules, Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 a formal tender exercise was advertised via the Public Contracts Scotland advertising portal.
Equality:	The ongoing provision of this service will ensure that individuals with protected characteristics have access to advocacy services and will be treated fairly in the delivery of the service. Barriers to access have been identified and steps have been taken to overcome these.
Children and Young People:	There are no implications for Children and Young People associated with this report.
Environmental & Sustainability:	None.
Key Priorities:	The procurement supports the following NAHSCP priorities; Priority 1 - Tackling inequalities; working to ensure services are responsive and sensitive to people who are covered by equalities legislation. Priority 5 - Improving mental health and wellbeing; support improved mental health and well-being for individuals.
Community Benefits:	The successful tenderer will deliver the following Community Benefits during the contract period; 15 days of education and skills initiatives.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Formal consultation was not applicable in this procurement as there has been no change to the delivery of the service.



LAURA FRIEL

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

Reference : NAC/4164

For further information please contact Grainne Doyle (Category Manager) on (01294) 324799

Background Papers

Tender Outcome Report