

Due Regard Statement

Name of the 'policy':	Proposed award of a South West sub-regional framework agreement for the provision of leaving care/independent living settings.
Person(s) responsible for completing this statement	Semonetta O'Connell, Commissioning Manager, CYP Commissioning Tel: 01452 328572 Email: semonetta.o'connell@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Briefly describe the activity being considered including aims and expected outcomes	<p>The purpose of this report is to seek authorisation for Gloucestershire County Council (the Council) to participate in a competitive tendering process compliant with the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/102) and conducted by South Gloucestershire Council as the lead authority for the award of a four year South West sub-regional Framework Agreement (the Framework) commencing on the 1st July 2017 for the provision of leaving care/independent living settings (Participating Local Authorities are: Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Swindon and Wiltshire Councils TBC). This framework will allow the participating authorities to secure sufficient leaving care/independent living placements for looked after young people.</p> <p>The new flexible Framework Agreement will take effect from the June/July 2017 for a term of four years until May/June 2021. It will replace an existing stand alone framework that is currently in place.</p>

The aim of the tendering process is to ensure that the participating Local Authorities obtain a sufficient list of pre-qualified Leaving Care/Independent Living accommodation and support Providers who can meet each Local Authorities needs (including diversity of provision). In order to achieve this, the market has and will continue to be involved in supporting the development of the participating local authority's requirements in order to maximise the number and quality of bids.

It is the assessment of the prospective participating Local Authorities that to tender on a sub-regional basis will allow further efficiencies as a result of:-

- Combined tendering reduces the cost pressure of such an exercise on individual Local Authorities
- It offers a more efficient and cost effective tendering process by requiring Leaving Care/Independent Living accommodation and support Providers to undertake only one tendering process and being required to demonstrate one set of quality and performance criteria
- It offers economies of scale in terms of performance monitoring and evaluation
- It enables a more coherent and robust message to Providers about the needs of the sub region to deliver sufficient placements for young people in care and leaving care at value for money prices
- Improved working relationships with providers of Leaving Care/Independent Living accommodation and support

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced work for each of the participating Local Authorities through sharing provider meetings and contract monitoring arrangements • It enables Local Authority specific needs for Leaving Care/Independent Living accommodation and support Providers to be commissioned through mini tendering • By acting as a whole the Local Authorities within the sub-region benefit from scale and market share in negotiating prices • Satisfying the requirements in the Children & Young People's Act 2008 regarding Local Authorities obligation to meet the sufficiency duty
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Documenting use of sufficient information

<p>Who is responsible for delivering the service?</p>	<p><u>South West Sub Regional Project Group</u></p> <p>Officers from the participating South West Local Authorities are responsible for developing the tender, based on information provided through their current and assessed future needs. Once the tender has been completed each of the participating Local Authorities will enter separately into framework agreements with providers successfully pre-qualified through this tender.</p> <p>Each participating Local Authority will then be responsible for commissioning individual services for vulnerable children and young people in their local authority areas.</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring of services delivered by providers selected, following the tender process, will be reviewed through regular Project Group reviews and formal contract monitoring arrangements.</p>
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	<p><u>Providers selected to the new Framework Agreements</u></p> <p>Providers of Leaving Care/Independent Living accommodation and support services must have, through the tender process, demonstrated that they are suitably experienced and capable of providing placement services for care leavers.</p> <p><u>Children and Young People's Commissioning</u></p> <p>The Gloucestershire County Council Children and Young People's Commissioning team will be responsible for the sourcing and contracting of individual placements based on meeting individual assessed need. The process through which the Children and Young People's Commissioning Team purchase provision, demonstrates compliance to our equality duty in the way that placements are sought using a number of criteria based on factors such as ethnic origin, culture, religion and faith. All requests for placement go through a rigorous process in which agreements must be sought from various senior individuals to ensure that the most appropriate placements are searched, assessed and contracted based on all aspects of the young persons life ensuring due regard to protected characteristics. In addition children and young people work with social care to inform the profile that is sent to providers and it is based around the individual including their profile, views and wishes.</p>
<p>Service user data/Needs analysis information</p>	
<p>Age</p>	<p>All 30 young people who currently access the service are aged 16-18 years as the service is specific to young people within this age range.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>None of the young people currently accessing the service have a disability. However for those that have learning needs these will be addressed in their Pathway Plan.</p>

Sex	Of the young people currently accessing the service, 20 are male and 10 are female, showing that there are twice as many males leaving care, however the cohort is small and so this can fluctuate.
Race (including Gypsy & Traveller)	<p>Of the 30 young people currently accessing the service:</p> <p>White British- 23 White and Black Caribbean- 2 White British/Irish Traveller- 1 Any other Asian Background- 1 Any other White Background- 2 Unknown- 1</p> <p>These statistics show a diverse race range despite the relatively small cohort.</p>
Gender reassignment	This data is not currently collected.
Marriage & civil partnership	This information is not currently collected, however we are aware that in this relatively small cohort there are no young people either married or in a civil partnership.
Pregnancy & maternity	<p>Of the 10 young females currently accessing the service our data indicates that 30% of young females currently leaving care/in semi-independent accommodation are pregnant or have recently had a child.</p> <p>Of the 20 young males currently accessing the service we do not currently record their paternal status.</p>
Religion or Belief	<p>Of the young people currently accessing the service:</p> <p>No religion or belief recorded- 19</p>

	<p>Church of England- 3 Christian-7 Roman Catholic- 1</p> <p>This appears to show some diversity but is not consistent as this is currently not recorded for statistical purposes.</p>
Sexual Orientation	This information is not currently recorded.

Other information

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Workforce data

If the proposed activity does not affect GCC staff, please state 'Not affected below'.

Total number of GCC staff affected	GCC staff not affected.
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Consultation and engagement

Service users	<p>Direct consultation with service users has not taken place over the term of the current contract. Consultation will be formalised as part of the new framework and currently a consultation group of looked after children and young people is being developed across the region to inform and report on the framework prior to and during the lifetime of the framework agreement.</p> <p>Service user views will be formalised under the new framework arrangements and will be collected from providers as part of quality assurance and internal monitoring processes.</p>
Workforce	N/A
Partners	<p>All participating local authorities are fully engaged with the framework and have met regularly to discuss options and make decisions collaboratively. Officers from the participating Local Authorities will meet on a monthly basis throughout the term of the framework.</p> <p>As part of discussion around the Leaving Care Framework we will be looking at ways to ensure that young people are afforded stability and equality of opportunity as they transition into adulthood.</p>
External providers of services	<p>Feedback from providers confirms the need for a flexible, consistent and cost effective range of quality-assured leaving care options that can offer Young People the support that they need.</p> <p>Informal discussions with current providers reiterates the need for effective collaborative framework agreements and this information will be formally collected and documented during consultation and the market event for</p>

providers in early 2017.

Equality analysis: Summary of what the evidence shows and how has it been used

Protected group	Challenge or opportunity considered and what we did
Age(A)	The proposed framework targets the most vulnerable young people who require safety and stability in order that they can meet their full potential in an environment that meets their specific needs. The provision of a safe and nurturing home environment enables and will focus upon access to education, training, health, social, recruitment and other services ensuring that young people in care have consistent and tailored support as they grow and develop into adulthood.
Disability (D)	Due to the flexibility of the framework and the focus on individual need, bespoke support packages are possible through the framework to meet emotional, learning, physical and practical needs. The framework impacts this characteristic positively as it enables a wider range of accommodation providers with specific skills and support practices to be accessed.
Sex (S)	Due to the nature of the way placements are commissioned there is a requirement to specify individual need and whilst none of the current framework providers have gender specific provisions, matching to those young people already in placement is rigorous, therefore providers will place young people based on their need therefore the impact is positive.

Race (including Gypsy & Traveller)(R)	<p>The framework offers the opportunity to provide specific support to address specific need (e.g. language, community and identity). The framework will enable access to a greater range of providers that could potentially enable young people to be placed with other young people who are of a similar race and in organisations who have a good understanding of cultural and racially specific requirements. The framework has the potential to positively impact this characteristic.</p>
Gender reassignment(GR)	<p>This information is not currently collected. The framework should impact positively on this characteristic, the wider choice of provider and bespoke support available will enable emerging gender and identity to be supported.</p>
Marriage & civil partnership (MCP)	<p>The impact is neutral.</p>
Pregnancy & maternity (PM)	<p>The framework allows for bespoke provision and supports those who may become young parents so the impact is potentially positive as young people will be supported with the transition to parenthood.</p>
Religion and/or Belief (RAOB)	<p>The framework allows for bespoke provision to meet individual needs and will seek to ensure that diversity is maintained. For example unaccompanied asylum seeking young people have a range of diverse needs both religiously and culturally and will, as a result of the government's dispersal policy, be positively represented in the framework.</p>

Sexual Orientation(SO)	The framework will impact positively on this characteristic, the wider choice of carers and bespoke support available will enable emerging gender and identity to be supported.
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Strengthening actions: Planning for further improvements

Action Plan

Action	Who is accountable	Time frame
Improve the range of data that will be collected about individual protected characteristics in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Reassignment as this is currently anecdotal • Sexual Orientation as not currently collected • Religion and or belief as not consistently collected 	CYP Commissioners and Data Management Team	1 st June/July 2017 until May/June 2021
Improved feedback from service users collected as part of the contract monitoring process.	CYP Commissioners in collaboration with framework providers	Process in place by 1 st June/July 2017 Review June/July 2018 and annually thereafter

Monitoring and Review

Regular meetings of the sub-regional group will take place to provide an opportunity for local authorities to discuss and address common challenges throughout the process.

Providers will have at least one contract management meeting each year to satisfy officers that providers are delivering to the specifications of the contract.

Overall activity and placements will be reviewed at least annually as part of the contract monitoring process in conjunction with social care team reviews.

Individual placements are monitored by placing social workers and operational managers.

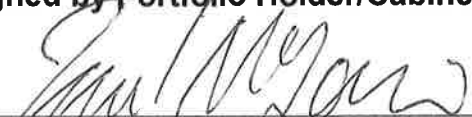
Sign off and Scrutiny

By signing this statement off as complete you are confirming that 'you' have examined sufficient information across all the protected groups and used that information to show due regard to the three aims of the general duty. This has informed the development of the activity

Senior level sign off: 	Date: 23/1/17
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I am in agreement that sufficient information and analysis has been used to inform the development of this 'activity' and that any proposed improvement actions are appropriate and I confirm that I as the decision maker have been able to show due regard to the needs set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

Name of relevant Portfolio Holder/Cabinet Member:
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Signed by Portfolio Holder/Cabinet Member: 	Date: 23.1.17

Publication

If this statement accompanies cabinet paper it will be published as part of the cabinet report publication process. Statements accompanying cabinet reports are also published on our website. If this statement is not to be submitted with a cabinet paper please maintain a copy for your own records that can be retrieved for internal review and also in case of future challenge.