

**PARENTING AND PREVENTION COMMISSIONING 0 – 19
RACIAL MINORITY ETHNIC FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report makes recommendations for approval to procure a Family Support Service for Racial Minority Ethnic families (RME) for 2009/11 to support children, young people and their families. The commissioning and procurement of this service will complete the parenting and prevention commissioning process which was approved by Wirral Council Cabinet in April 2009.

This recommendation has been robust, multi-agency (including voluntary and community sector involvement) and inclusive of parents, children and young people.

1. Background

- 1.1 The service will provide Family Support to Racial Minority Ethnic Children, Young People and their Families by offering direct support and to ensure access to the range of preventative services. The service will support these families across a broad age range (0-19) working within the CAF/Team around the Child framework and will offer flexible support. It will also provide parenting groups using the evidence based programme Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities. This service will have a particular focus which is inclusive of those parents who are less likely to engage with mainstream services.
- 1.2 The framework was a joint commissioning group and joint procurement panel working across the C&YPD, Wirral NHS, Third Sector and service users to plan and secure RME Family Support Service 0-19 year old children. This proved effective and brought cohesion to planning and prioritisation of resources.

2. Joint Commissioning Process

- 2.1 This joint commissioning process joined up the planning and commissioning of prevention and parenting services across agencies from identified existing funding streams currently used on commissioning services. For this commissioning of RME Family Support Service it includes:-
 - Children's Fund (Area Based Grant)
 - Strategic Partnership Funding (Wirral NHS)
- 2.2 This process does not seek to pool funding. Any existing funding conditions would remain intact with the associated funding stream. The process was led by the Parenting/Prevention Commissioning Manager, Children and Young People's Department and the Procurement Team which lead the procurement process working with the Business Manager within Strategic Partnerships (Wirral NHS)
- 2.3 The joint commissioning process is outcome focused and will focus on the outcomes within: the Children and Young People's Plan; Local Area Agreement; Parenting and Family Support Strategy; Teenage Pregnancy Strategy; PCT (Wirral NHS) Strategic Commissioning Plan.
- 2.4 Agreement to the commissioning priorities recommendations were endorsed by the Children and Young People's Strategic Management Board, focusing on the following

outcomes:

- To safely reduce the number of children becoming Looked After (LAA priority links to NI 68))
- Raise overall educational attainment particularly lower achieving young people (LAA Priority NI 72)
- Narrowing the attainment gap to ensure all children and young people are not at a health and social disadvantage (NI 92)
- To improve mental health and reduce health inequalities (NI 50, VSB08)

- 2.5 The procurement process consisted of advertising in the press and on-line, inviting prospective providers to a procurement workshop and submission of a method statement and a Pre Qualifying Questionnaire forms. The selection process also consisted of evaluation of publicity material by potential service users (children, young people and parents) and a selection panel consisting of senior representatives from the Children and Young People's Department, Wirral NHS, the Link Forum and a Parent.

Summary of commissioning process:

Advert placed:	15/07/09
Procurement workshop:	20/07/09
Application closure:	12/08/09
Validation Panel:	19/08/09
Interviews:	24/08/09

- 2.6 A total of two tender documents were received by the closing date and only one application was of a high standard and passed the Pre Qualifying Questionnaire. The successful application to be referred to the next stage was from Wirral Multicultural Organisation (WMO).
- 2.7 At interview 7 questions were asked and the scoring was 0 1 3 5 and the panel agreed that the tenderer had to score at least 3 for each question to be successful in order to make this recommendation to Cabinet. WMO achieved this and had a total score of 21.

3. Recommendation of the Commissioning Panel

- 3.1 The panel recommended that the identified preferred provider Wirral Multi Cultural Organisation be awarded the contract valued at £40,000 until March 2011.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The funding for this service was advertised as £40,000 and the applicants included the cost of staffing the service in their tenders. This funding has been, and continues to be an important factor in the development of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no staffing implications for the Council. If the recommended provider is approved there will be no TUPE implications as they are the existing provider and employer of the existing staff.

6. Equal Opportunities Implications

- 6.1 In developing priorities for commissioning the Working Group agreed to address the needs of some groups who are under-represented in the use of current provision e.g. fathers.
- 6.2 Racial Minority Children are amongst the most vulnerable children and young people and the service is specifically intended to promote equality of opportunity

7. Community Safety Implications

- 7.1 The services procured will have a significant impact upon supporting families to ensure that young people are engaged in education and positive activities and benefit from additional help, if they need it, at an early stage.

8. Local Agenda 21 Statement

- 8.1 There are no significant implications.

9. Planning Implications

- 9.1 There are no significant implications.

10. Anti Poverty implications

- 10.1 Working within the Common Assessment Framework, services are well placed to support impoverished families to access appropriate services.

11. Social inclusion implications

- 11.1 The planned service will contribute significantly to social inclusion by supporting families whose children are at risk of excluded from mainstream services.

12. Local Member Support implications

- 12.1 This report affects all wards

13. Background Papers

None

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Board recommends the approval of the procurement of services of the recommended identified preferred provider Wirral Multi Cultural Organisation of the contract valued at £40,000 until March 2011.

Report Author: Janice Monty

Contact: 666 4496