

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: Frank Hamill, Children and Young People Principal

Subject:
Primary School Transition Support Pilot

Type of decision: Budget/financial			
Deputy Mayor's decision	X	Chief Officer's decision	

In all cases this will need to be approved by the Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.

<p>The decision is that: The Deputy Mayor agrees to the funding allocation of £900,000 of VRU core funding to develop and deliver in partnership with schools and families, a programme of child centre, strength based, trauma informed, 1-2-1 support for the most vulnerable, and high-risk pupils and their families (including siblings), who are struggling for more targeted interventions as they transition between years 5, 6, and 7 within 10 pilot primary schools which are situated within North and East Manchester.</p> <p>2022/23 - £300,000 (1 Sept 22 – 31 August 23) 2023/24 - £300,000 2024/25 - £300,000</p> <p>The contract term for year 1 will be for a 12-month period which will commence from contract award date, with an opportunity to extend by two further 12-month periods covering 2023/24 and 2024/25 (subject to continuation of receipt of Home Office Serious Violence funding to the GMCA).</p> <p>This amount has been agreed by the Serious Violence Governance Board as well as key stakeholders, including GMCA senior leadership and the relevant Home Office departments.</p>
<p>The reasons for the decision are:</p> <p>The Greater Manchester Strategy recognises that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted our people and places, acknowledges that recovery will be tough. In Greater Manchester, we will make every effort to ensure that all our people are supported to live a good life, through all ages and stages in their lives. This includes a commitment to supporting our children and young people to be good learners, with any necessary family</p>

help, education recovery, wrap-around provision and health and wellbeing needs being met.

The Inequalities Commission and Build Back Fairer reports both emphasised the need for Greater Manchester to embed a preventative and ‘future generations’ approach. We need to ensure that Greater Manchester is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The GMCA is committed to prioritising work with children and young people, to share expertise and evidence of the success of prevention approaches and continue to build capacity and partnerships to further develop these approaches.

In June 2021, the VRU in partnership with the Innovation Hub held a Primary School Summit, to address growing anecdotal concerns from primary schools in GM that issues of intergenerational violence and knife carrying appeared to be increasingly prevalent and were affecting children at a younger age than had previously been the case.

Of those attendees working in schools 83% indicated that behaviour, particularly in respect to violence or threats of violence, had become worse. Furthermore, when the question was pitched in the context of communities, 90% felt that criminality involving violence, or the threat of violence had become worse.

A recommendation which arose from the Summit, was the recognition of the need to support effective transition between school phases and mentor schemes and ensure support is sustained as children transition to secondary school, drawing on existing good practice nationally and locally, to shape a GM model.

It should be recognised that Greater Manchester has some strong primary schools, and some well-developed family support in schools which works well with early help. However, it has been recognised that some families are facing their greatest challenges which require more support. In addition, there is currently minimal interventions which are aimed specifically at children transitioning into teenage years and secondary school who are at greater risk of disconnection.

A full competitive tender process has been undertaken, supported and moderated by procurement and Information Governance. Salford Foundation were the successful bidder, with an excellent offer to deliver this service.

The service will be contract managed by the Children and Young People's Principal (Frank Hamill), and will be subject to ongoing evaluation by the GMCA evaluation partner.

This decision will contribute to priorities of the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:

This programme of work will impact the following GM Strategies

- All four priorities in the [Standing Together plan](#)
- All priorities of the [Greater Manchester Serious Violence Action Plan](#).
- The [GM Integrated Health And Justice Strategy](#)

Financial comments:

The funding covers full costs of the commissioned service up to March 2025. A Grant Agreement with the Home Office is in place for this funding. (Part of core funding). Salford Foundation will claim quarterly in arrears.

2022/23 - £300,000 (1 Sept '22 – 31 March '23)

2023/24 - £300,000

2024/25 - £300,000

Legal comments:

When commissioning contracts for the procurement of goods, services, or the execution of works, GMCA must comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR) and its own Contract Procurement Rules (CPR) in the Constitution, failing which a contract may be subject to legal challenge from an aggrieved provider.

The proposed award of the contract follows a full competitive tender exercise using the open tender procedure and therefore the procurement process undertaken in this matter appears robust, and the appointment of the provider is outlined within the body of the report, with bidders submitting tenders and being evaluated on the most economically advantageous tender basis, resulting in the proposed award of the contract to Salford Foundation, which is compliant with the requirements of CPR and public procurement legislation. Undertaking the competitive open tender exercise in the recommendation will also give some comfort to GMCA in ensuring that value for money is being obtained and periodically tested, with open competition maintained.

Manchester City Council Legal Team is working with GMCA officers to draft an appropriate contract for the service to ensure its interests are protected.

Procurement comments:

GM Senior Procurement lead (Drew Elliott) has overseen the process.

Risk Assessment:

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

The service engages with ages 9 to 12 years. Safeguarding is at the heart of this service. The service specification required that all professionals involved in the delivery of this programme must be appropriately vetted (Enhanced DBS checked) and have undertaken relevant training (including safeguarding), and that all aspects of safeguarding are put in place and maintained throughout the contract period.

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:

The service engages with ages 9-12 years, and their families. Safeguarding is at the heart of this service. The service specification required that all aspects of safeguarding are put in place and maintained throughout the contract period.

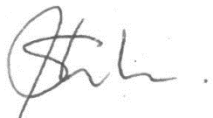
Agreed by Interim Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire



Signed:

Date: 10th August 2022


Agreed by GMCA Treasurer



Signed:

Date: 10/08/2022

Agreed by Deputy Mayor
Only required for a Deputy Mayor Decision on amounts of £50,000+

Signed: 

Date: 11th August 2022

Contact Officer:
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