

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: Philip Leigh

Subject/ Title:
Greater Manchester Drugs Early Warning System

Type of decision:			
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: Following an open tender process, a contract for the provision of a Drugs Early Warning System (DEWS) is awarded to Linnell Communications for a period of 24-months with the option to extend for two additional 12-month periods.</p> <p>The value of the full potential contract period (4 years) is £83,800 (£20,950 per annum).</p>
<p>The reasons for the decision are: DEWS will contribute to the GM ambition to reduce drug related deaths and drug related harm; this is described below.</p> <p>DEWS provides a valuable resource for professionals to report incidents relating to the use of drugs, seek specialist knowledge and support, and establish incidents or patterns relating to particular problem substances (e.g. adulterated or incorrectly identified batches in circulation).</p> <p>DEWS provides each Greater Manchester local authority area with a Local Drug Information System (LDIS) where professionals from a range of organisations such as police, schools, hospitals, substance misuse services, and youth services, can submit and receive reports of incidents relating to drugs, emerging drugs, and changes to the local market.</p> <p>DEWS enables the review of any significant incidents or developments relating to drugs and provides support ranging from targeted information to professionals/drug users to general public announcements. These are co-ordinated prior to release with relevant GM/local organisations such as GMCA, police, local authority, and health services.</p>

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

This aligns with the GMS priority around building safer and stronger communities.

Procurement comments:

This contract was subject to an open tender process supervised by Commercial Services, for which a single bid (Linnell Communications) was received. As the market has been properly tested, there are no Procurement concerns.

Financial comments:

Funding will be from the FIM, Cost Centre: 3007, Account Code: 5153.

The budget holder has confirmed that the financial commitment has been planned into the budget for the full term of the contract.

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.

Although the value of the services is below threshold levels for PCR to become necessary, 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 the sole bidder submitting a tender and it being evaluated on the most economically advantageous tender basis, resulting in the proposed award of the contract to Linnell Communications, 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.

On receipt of instructions, Manchester City Council Legal Team will work with GMCA officers to draft an appropriate contract for the service to ensure its interests are protected.

Risk Assessment:
DEWS lowers the risk of drug related deaths and harm across GM by providing accurate and timely information to professionals and drugs users.

The principal risk related to the delivery of DEWS is the possibility of providing inaccurate or poorly co-ordinated information to targeted groups or the general public. This risk is substantially mitigated by the proposed contract award to Linnell Communications which brings an extensive track record of delivering accurate information in co-ordination with key organisations across GM and proving high quality advice to professionals/organisations.

A secondary risk is that the proposed provider is a sole trader and therefore there is no support within Linnell Communications if the principal is unable to provide the service. The bid submission recognises this risk and provides a plan whereby other suitably qualified individuals can deliver the service in the absence of the principal.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:
DEWS will not be engaged in the safeguarding of children

Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:
DEWS will not be engaged in the safeguarding of vulnerable adults

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



Signed... ..

Date...27th January 2023.....

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer



Signed

Date 07/02/2023

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

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



Signed: ...

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Date: ...7th Feb 2023.....

Contact Officer: