

DECISION NOTICE

Decision author and proposer: Philip Leigh

Subject/ Title:
Greater Manchester Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths Panels

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:</p> <p>Following a procurement exercise conducted by open tender, a contract for the provision of Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths Panels for Greater Manchester is awarded to Liverpool John Moores University (as JMU Services Ltd). The contract will run for an initial period of 29 months (1st November 2024 to 31st March 2027), with the option to extend for two further 12-month periods.</p> <p>The total value of the contract is £392,177 (including extension years).</p> <p>GMCA commissions this system on behalf of the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities, with the local authorities fully funding the system.</p> <p>This service is being commissioned by GMCA on behalf of all ten GM local authorities. The commitment from the GM local authorities to contribute these funds has been agreed through the GM Drug & Alcohol Commissioners Group.</p>
<p>The reasons for the decision are:</p> <p>Drug and alcohol related deaths remain a significant issue at both a local and national level. The most recently available data shows a reduction in drug related death rates in GM compared to the previous period, however between 2020 and 2022 there were 660 recorded drug related deaths across GM, which is a significantly higher rate per 100,000 population than the national average (8.0 GM, 5.2 national).</p> <p>The Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths Panels will enable data and information to be compiled by local authority in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demographics and trends

- substances implicated in toxicology
- cause and verdicts of deaths where available
- common themes such as employment/accommodation/relationship status
- characteristics of deaths

This information will be considered by local panels of professionals across a range of disciplines to help in improving the response to such deaths and assist with delivering the ambition of reducing drug related deaths in Greater Manchester.

Following a procurement exercise conducted by open tender, LJMU are the highest scoring applicant and are considered fully competent to deliver the requirements of the contract.

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.

The decision also meets the Greater Manchester Combatting Drugs Partnership Strategic Delivery Plan, Strategic Objective 2.1 “Delivering world-class treatment and recovery services – strengthening local authority commissioned substance misuse services for both adults and young people, and improving quality, capacity and outcomes”.

Procurement comments:

This requirement (GMCA 905 Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths Panels) was advertised via Contracts Finder and tendered under a Light Touch Regime on the 7th of August 2024.

2 tender responses were received.

The responses received were evaluated by a panel of 3 Adjudicators and their scores were moderated accordingly via the facilitation of a Procurement Lead.

Following the score’s Moderation, Centre for Public Health, LJMU emerged as the most economically advantageous tenderer for the DARD requirement.

The contract duration is for Two years and Five months, with a provision to extend for two additional periods of one additional year.

The contract commencement date is 1st of November 2024.

In accordance with the Public Contract Regulations, the Authority would allow a 10-day standstill period which commences from when this Decision Notice is signed, and the tender Outcome Letters are sent out to the bidders for this requirement. This is to allow for legitimate legal challenges to be raised against the proposed contract award. The decision is also subject to a 5-day call in period from the Authority’s internal scrutiny committee, this will run concurrently alongside the standstill period.

Accordingly, the Authority cannot formally award this contract until 01/11/2024, and only then providing no legal challenge has been initiated.

A further letter confirming the contract award will be sent after the standstill period has expired, subject to no legal challenges having been received. No services should be commenced in relation to this tender until the contract requirements have been completed to the satisfaction of the solicitor to the Authority.

The contract will be conducted under the terms and conditions of service issued as part of the tender documentation.

Financial comments:

This service is being commissioned by GMCA on behalf of all ten GM local authorities. The commitment from the GM local authorities to contribute these funds has been agreed through the GM Drug & Alcohol Commissioners Group.

The funding is indicated below.

Annual values				
Nov 24 to March 25*	April 25 to March 26	April 26 to March 27	April 27 to March 28	April 28 to March 29
£33,063	£83,319	£87,484	£91,859	£96,452

*Part-year

The last 2 columns are the +1 +1 years and will only be relevant if the contract is extended.

Legal comments:

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

provider. The proposed award of the contract on behalf of the 10 GM authorities follows a tender exercise with the opportunity being advertised appropriately.

Bids were received from various suppliers for this project, which have been evaluated on the most economically advantageous tender basis in line with published procedures resulting in the proposed award of the contract to LJMU. The procurement procedures therefore appear robust and compliant with the requirements of the Council's CSO's and PCR.

Risk Assessment:

Drug and alcohol related death panels provide the capability for Greater Manchester and the constituent local authorities to monitor drug and alcohol related deaths and determine system improvements and practice to reduce these deaths.

The delivery of the contract by a competent provider is not assessed to present any significant risk to the GMCA, local authorities, or GM residents however failure to provide the service may result in increased numbers of drug and alcohol related deaths.

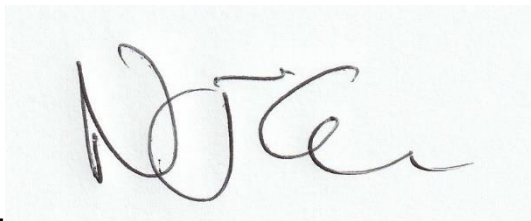
Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:

The delivery of this contract does not require contact with children.

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

The delivery of this contract does not require contact with vulnerable adults.

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



Signed...

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Date...23rd October 2024.....

Agreed by GMCA Treasurer

Signed 

Date 24th October 2024.....

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

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

Signed: ... 

Date: ...24th October 2024.....

Contact Officer:
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Substance Misuse Strategy and Partnership Officer
Safer Stronger Communities