

DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES



DECISION NO: P&C42

SUBJECT: Tender for Adoption Support Services

DECISION:

To agree to tender for the continuation of the above service for one year with an option to extend for up to a year (two years in total).

BACKGROUND:

In June 2015 the Government published a paper¹ setting out plans to regionalise Adoption agencies in England. Work around this in the area is ongoing and the South West agency will be known as Adoption West. This service is expected to be launched in April 2018.

In the meantime, the service that is currently provided by After Adoption ends on 31 March 2017. We have already extended the contract from its original end day of 31 March 2016 for a year.

As the contract is coming to the end of the extension period (31/03/17) for the current contract we would normally request to re-tender the service. However, as we only require a short term agreement (a year – 18 months), and there is possibly only one provider we are requesting to extend the contract again until the new overarching Adoption West arrangement is in place.

Reasons:

We have a statutory² duty to provide adoption and post-adoption support services. Until Adoption West is established, we retain responsibility to provide these services.

By commissioning the service for a further year (with possibility to extend for up to a year) we are able to ensure continuity for the service users and professionals who utilise the service.

By commissioning for one year with an option to extend, we are ensuring:

- There will not be duplication of services should Adoption West come online at its anticipated start date of 1 April 2018

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/437128/Regionalising_adoption.pdf

² Adoption and Children Act 2002

- We are able to extend the service should there be a delay in Adoption West's start date.

Options Considered:

1. Do nothing
 - a. The contract will end in March 2017 and there will be no After Adoption support services.
2. Continue with the service as it is
 - a. We are unable to extend the current contract due to the extension clause being exhausted in 2016/17.
3. Advertise a new contract
 - a. Small market for the work made more risk for other organisation because the term is short.
4. Extend current contract
 - a. This is the preferred option.

Financial Implications:

£20,210 per annum for a maximum of two years until 31 March 2019 (total possible value £40,420).

Implications for Future Years:

As already mentioned, eventually Adoption West will become responsible for commissioning adoption support services.

Gerald Hunt

Reviewed:

Gerald Hunt
Head of Commissioning

Dated: 6.12.16

Signed: *Sheila Smith*

Sheila Smith
Director of People and Communities

Dated: *8.12.16*