

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



## **COUNCIL EXECUTIVE**

### **PROCUREMENT APPROVAL REPORT**

#### **REPORT BY THE HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

##### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek Council Executive approval to enter into contracts where Committee authorisation is required by Standing Orders.

##### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council Executive approve a direct award of a contract to Children First to provide a combined Family Group Decision Making (FGDM), Kinship Support and Mental Health Services to families, children and young people for a period of 1 years from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, with an estimated total value of £263,322.

##### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I</b>	<b>Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources.
<b>II</b>	<b>Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	Standing Orders of West Lothian Council and the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015.
<b>III</b>	<b>Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV</b>	<b>Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V</b>	<b>Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

<b>VI</b>	<b>Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	All the proposals were included in the 2021/22 budget;
<b>VII</b>	<b>Consideration at PDSP</b>	N/A
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Other consultations</b>	See section D of the report

## **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

### **D.1 PROVISION OF FAMILY GROUP DECISION MAKING, KINSHIP SUPPORT AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Children and Young People are one of the most vulnerable groups in our society and the council has a responsibility, in conjunction with partners to act in the best interests of the Child or Young Person to ensure their wellbeing.

The Children and Young People Scotland Act 2014 sets out that relevant services in relation to children at risk of becoming looked after be made available. Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) services are specifically cited as a relevant service under the 2014 Act (Relevant Services in relation to Children at Risk of Becoming Looked After etc.) Order 2016.

Section 2 of the Mental Health Care and Treatment (Scotland) Act 2003 requires that any functions under the Act in relation to a child with mental disorder should be discharged in the way that best secures the importance of providing any carer with information as might assist them to care for the patient.

Following the Independent Care Review in 2020, the Change Program One for 2021 – 2024 was published which sets out priorities for all services working with children and young people.

The support provided under this contract to families and young people helps to reduce demand on statutory Social Work services, enables and empowers families to work through crises and stay together as a family. As a result of this fewer young people become looked after and accommodated resulting in reduction of costs for residential or foster care.

The current contract ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. A one year direct award will provide continuity of service provision, allowing continuation of support to vulnerable families and young people whilst allowing for the completion of the Children's Services commissioning strategy which will direct future procurement.

Regulation 3 (10) of the Public Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016 makes provision for the aggregation of public contracts where the value of all contracts for similar supplies and services awarded during the previous 12 months must be aggregated. The aggregated value determines whether the contract is over the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) threshold. The contract value over the previous year is £258,159 and the value of the proposed award is £263,322. The combined value of £521,481 is below the Light Touch Regime threshold (£663,540) and therefore, in line with the Scottish Government guidance on the Procurement of Care and Support, the Council can choose not to seek offers for Social Care and Other Related Services contracts on a case by case basis. Whilst the Council's Standing Orders permit the Head of Corporate Services to approve the direct award,

they may opt to seek approval from Council Executive. Council Executive is, therefore, requested to approve a direct award of a contract to Children First to provide a combined Family Group Decision Making (FGDM), Kinship Support and Mental Health Services to families, Children and Young People for a period of 1 years from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, with an estimated total value of £263,322.

**E. CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that the Council Executive approves the procurement set out in the report, which will support delivery of effective Council Services.

**F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

**Julie Whitelaw**  
**Head of Corporate Services**

16 November 2021