

DECISION NOTICE (GMP)

Decision author and proposer:

Subject: The Guardian FGM Project

Type of decision: Alteration and extension of contract

**Deputy Mayor's
decision**

x

**Chief Officer's
decision**

The decision is that:

The Guardian Project should continue to be funded until the end of March 2019, at which point the Deputy Mayor will further discuss funding with the Health and Social Care leads. Funding of £49, 000 is available from the Victims Fund for the main part of the service and a further £24, 000 has been provided from the Health and Social Care fund, towards the running of a contributory project, Support Our Sisters.

The extension will be based on the original contract but will additionally cover the Support Our Sisters project, for the months funded (January – end of March 2019).

The reasons for the decision are:

The Guardian project delivers on most of the key priorities agreed in the GM FGM Strategy as well as many Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) responsibilities identified by the Department of Health (DoH).

The pilot period of the project was designed to allow informed costings to be generated and to refine the support offer but the intention has always been to establish a longer-term service, funded annually by Health and the Deputy Mayor.

An extension is required to allow the project to:

- continue running whilst longer term funding arrangements are explored with Health
- acknowledge and implement any adjustments
- better establish the necessary elements of the Guardian project and the Support Our Sisters project, in meeting the needs of young girls at risk of FGM and their families

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- 1) Funding be provided for the Guardian project only.

Rejected because it has been established that the Support Our Sisters project provides the specialist psychological support which is required to address the needs of many of the young people and families coming through the Guardian project. In recognition of this need and the Clinical Commissioning responsibilities outlined by the DoH, funding has already been provided towards this service.

- 2) Redesign the Guardian project to include required elements of the Support Our Sisters project and fund jointly with Health immediately

Rejected because the child specific services of the Support Our Sisters project are funded by Comic Relief until the end of December 2018. Health and Social Care funding to the end of March 2019 will help inform discussions regarding future joint funding of the projects.

Financial comments:

There is sufficient funds within the MOJ Victims Fund 18-19.

Additional funding of £24, 000 has been provided from the Health and Social Care fund to cover the child specific services provided by the Support Our Sisters project.

Legal comments:

Procurement consulted – waiver required and signed off.

Risk Assessment:

- 1) The waiver is not signed.

The waiver has been signed by both Procurement and the Treasurer.

- 2) The provider (NESTAC) ceases to operate and cannot deliver on the contract

NESTAC are funded the Support Our Sisters (SOS) until December 2018 and a number of other funding bodies, meaning they are not reliant on one source of funding or inflexible on capacity. Their financial health was also assessed, as part of procurement for the pilot.

- 3) Another service challenges the award of the extended contract to NESTAC

Procurement for the pilot identified only two agencies who could potentially deliver the project, NESTAC and AFRUCA. The pilot has established that AFRUCA are unable to deliver on the requirements of the contract. Over the course of the pilot, no other potential services have been identified. The Procurement team advise that this is sufficient to indicate there are no other services which could challenge for delivery of the contract.

4) The project becomes established and relied upon by professionals/clients but funding arrangements cannot be agreed with Health.
The four months Health and Social Care funding of the Support Our Sisters project will inform discussions with Health regarding future funding. The time can also be used to evaluate and negotiate with Health and to make other arrangements if an agreement cannot be reached.

5) Increased referral rates, associated with a longer running time/a more embedded service, prevent NESTAC from providing a high quality service for all clients/professionals.
An additional staff member has been recruited to support the increased referral rates and the Support Our Sisters project has been established long enough for numbers to not be expected to rise in the same way.

6) Limited understanding of demand.
The prevalence report that was produced in 2015 is limited in terms of the data that was used to inform the work. A further piece of analysis should be conducted, following the introduction of mandatory reporting, to ensure that any future investment is based on risk and need.

Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:
The project contributes substantially to the improved safeguarding of vulnerable children – those who have experienced or are at risk of FGM.

The ability of NESTAC to appropriately safeguard children was assessed, as part of procurement for the pilot.

Signed on behalf of GMCA (Director of Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice & Fire)

Signed:.....
Date:.....

Agreed by Deputy Mayor

Signed: *[Handwritten Signature]*
Date: *30/4/18*

Contact Officer: Laura Mercer (Principal-Victims and Vulnerability-GMCA)

100
100
100

100
100
100

100
100
100

100
100
100

GROUNDS FOR EXEMPTION REPORT

Report For	>£50,000 = Head of Paid Service & Treasurer
Report Author	Rose Grubert
Date	13/03/2017
Team	Research
Contract Reference	(If Applicable) – Guardian Project

In line with the GMCA's Constitution and as stated in the Contract Procedure Rules under Part B, section B, point 3.2 of the Constitution, a Chief Officer may (subject to the Head of Paid Service and Treasurer's written approval where the Total Value is likely to exceed £50,000) waive any requirements within these Contract Procedure Rules, where they are satisfied that one of the following applies;

If seeking a waiver from the Contract Procedure Rules, then please indicate which of the grounds for exemption applies in the table below, along with an explanation that outlines the reason why a waiver is being sought.

Grounds For Exemption	Tick as appropriate
Goods are to be bought at auction and the GMCA's best interest will be served by purchase through auction and has agreed an upper limit for bids.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only one contractor can provide the goods, services or works required and there is no reasonable alternative contractor.	X
The need for the goods, services or works is so urgent that the time needed to comply with these Contract Procedure Rules would be prejudicial to the GMCA's interests.	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are value for money reasons justifying a waiver.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting Information
<p>Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime (DMPC), Baroness Beverly Hughes is looking to extend and alter the current contract held with New Step for African Communities (NESTAC) for the delivery of the Guardian project.</p> <p>The Guardian Project was launched in November 2016 (opening to service users in December 2018) and delivers against several priorities of the Greater Manchester Female Genital Mutilation Strategy. The intention is to extend the project by 12 months to the end of financial year 2019.</p> <p>It has been agreed that £49,000 will be provided by the DMPC and £24,000 from the Health and Social Care budget to fund these 12 from April 2018. The £24,000 will be provided to the GMCA for spend on this project.</p> <p>Procurement for the initial 12 month pilot identified only two providers who were able to deliver on the specialist contract requirements for the original scope. These were NESTAC and Africans Unite Against Child Abuse (AFRUCA). This was consistent with scoping research conducted prior to procurement. The pilot was undertaken with both providers.</p> <p>During the pilot, it has been established that only NESTAC has been able to</p>

deliver on the contract requirements. It has also been established that the original scope of the project needs to be expanded to include additional activity being undertaken by NESTAC. Specifically, the current scope focusses on children affected by FGM and their families whilst the additional work supports adult women affected by FGM.

An up-to-date view of FGM specialist services is maintained through the GM FGM Forum and it is therefore fair to conclude that there is no other provider who could fulfil this expanded contract for the planned extension.

The total cost for 12 months has been £49,000 and the cost of the additional services for 12 months has been agreed as £24,000. The full amount of £73,000 would be paid to NESTAC for the 12 months for financial year 2019.

Following this extension, annual joint funding with Health is currently being explored, for which procurement would be undertaken.

The completed request form must be sent to the procurement team in the first instance via email to procurement@manchesterfire.gov.uk. The procurement team will provide their comment and view as to whether they agree that the request for a waiver from the Contract Procedure Rules is a legitimate request and return the form to the originator. If the procurement team acknowledge and agree that a waiver is appropriate, then the originator must then send the form, incorporating the procurement comments on to Richard Paver, the Treasurer of the Combined Authority, via email to richard.paver@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk for formal approval.

PROCUREMENT COMMENT	<p>Exemption is sought to waive the requirement to run a tender exercise for procurements over £50,000.</p> <p>Value for money is demonstrated through the competition held to appoint for the pilot period, which has subsequently shown that only the incumbent is able to satisfy the requirement for the next 12 months.</p> <p>Competition should be well advertised before the end of this period to re-test the market for new entrants.</p>
NAME AND POSITION	Sam Pickles Part Risk, Sustainability, Procurement & Contract Management
DATE	19/03/2018
SIGNATURE	<i>S. Pickles</i>

APPROVED BY	RICHARD PAVER
POSITION	TREASURER OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

DATE	22/03/2018
SIGNATURE	<i>R.W.L.</i>

