



Executive Director/Director Non-Key Executive Decision Report

**Author/Lead Officer of Report: Dorothy Smith,
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Report to: *Director of Children and Families*

Date of Decision: *11/2/20*

Subject: **South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership
contract with the University of Sheffield
Management School**

Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? Cllr Jackie Drayton

Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? Yes No

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? *(Insert reference number)*

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-

"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."

Purpose of Report:

The current contract with the University of Sheffield for the provision of postgraduate certificates in leadership and management for social work expired in September 2019. This paper recommends the recommissioning of that contract for a minimum of 12 students per year across the Partnership for a four year period ensuring that the Council and its partner local authorities continue to benefit from a greatly reduced price. Sheffield City Council, as the lead authority, will act on behalf of the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership and will recharge each local authority so there is limited financial risk.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Director of Children and Families:

1. Notes the proposed continued arrangement under the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership under which the Council acts as lead authority on behalf of the Partnership with regard to contractual arrangements with the University of Sheffield Management School.
2. Exercise their delegated authority to make appropriate recommissioning arrangements for i) contracting with the University of Sheffield; and ii) making payments under the contract for the provision of postgraduate certificates in leadership and management for social work on behalf of the local authority members of the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership to the University of Sheffield.

Background Papers:

(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)

Lead Officer to complete:-	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	Finance: Andy Bray
	Legal: Dave Cutting
	Equalities: Not required
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	Lead Officer Name: Dorothy Smith
	Job Title: Senior Manager, QAIS
Date: 17/12/19	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 Sheffield City Council is the lead authority for the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership. The Teaching Partnership is a collaboration of 5 local authorities and two local universities and has been in existence since 2015. The Partnership commissioned the University of Sheffield Management school in 2016 to deliver a bespoke Leadership and Management in Social Work programme at Post Graduate Certificate level which was mapped to the Social Work Practice Supervisor and Leader Knowledge and Skills statements as defined by the Chief Social Worker and up to present three cohorts have run with over 30 senior managers gaining the qualification with many of them gaining promotions at Senior or Executive levels.
- 1.2 The University of Sheffield Management school is an AMBA, AACSB and EQUIS accredited Business School at the University of Sheffield. It is one of 60 business schools in the world to have achieved triple accreditation. The University charge the Partnership £3,000 per person for the Post Graduate Certificate in Social Work programme in order to demonstrate their commitment to give value back into the community. The course ordinarily costs £20,000 per person.
- 1.3 The current contract with the University expired in September. In consultation with the procurement team the proposal recommends a continuation of a contract for a minimum of 12 students per year across the Partnership for a four year period which amounts to £144,000.
- 1.4 An agreement was made by the Partnership Executive Steering Board in May 2019 to extend the contract and that 12 contracted places would be calculated pro rata to each authority based on the size of the social work workforce and will be charged annually as follows: Barnsley 1 place, Doncaster Trust and DBMC 2 places, Rotherham MBC 2.5 places, Sheffield City Council 3 places, Lincolnshire County Council 3.5 places. Those with 0.5 places will elect to pay for a full place or pay an additional £1500 per place.
- 1.5 Sheffield City Council, as the lead authority will act on behalf of the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership and will recharge each local authority for the number of contracted places and will be responsible for payment to the University of Sheffield management school.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 This proposal will enable the Partnership to continue the good work that has been carried out over the last four years insofar as working collaboratively with the University of Sheffield Management school so that the accredited Post Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management for Social Work which is bespoke to Social Work Managers continues to be taught in order to raise standards for aspiring

Senior Leaders. The course consists of four modules and is taught between January and July each year with a final assignment and portfolio of evidence gaining 60 credits. Many managers who have gained this qualification have been promoted to Senior Executive positions.

2.2 The Management school chaired the Teaching Partnership visioning day at no cost and attend our Strategic Stakeholder Board in order to keep up to date with changes in social work and to advise us from a business and management perspective.

2.3 This evidences the raised standards impact on the quality and services provided by senior leaders thereby providing a higher quality service to our children, young people and families. We are committed to growing leaders for the future and this short programme attracts high numbers of nominees.

2.4 We have just entered into a contract with Sheffield Hallam University for the MSc in Senior Leadership apprenticeship course for those who wish to study for a full 3 year degree.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

3.1 The Council is not required to consult on the proposal as the consultation process for Social Work Teaching Partnerships was undertaken by the DfE/DH on a national basis. Consultation about this contract has taken place with executive board members of the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

4.1.1 None

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

	Total Value	Annual Cost
Costs for 12 places over 4 years for 5 local authorities	£144,000	£36,000
Cost to Sheffield City Council 3 places per year for 4 years	£36,000	£9,000
Recharge to other LA's	£108,000	£27,000

Funding for Sheffield's annual contribution to the contract is included within the current budget and at the present time is expected to continue.

Written agreement from the other Local Authority Partners on the Partnership Executive Steering Board of the South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership will be obtained to formalise the funding agreement for the

balance of the contract.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The Council and the partner local authorities are empowered to enter into partnerships and collaborative initiatives like the Teaching Partnership under sections 101 and 111 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 4.3.2 The Teaching Partnership collaboration is governed and enabled by the 2018 South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership Agreement under which participating and co-commissioning local authorities have agreed that Sheffield City Council will act as the Lead Authority for tendering purposes.
- 4.3.3 Under the Partnership Agreement the Lead Authority will act on behalf of partner local authorities in terms of what it describes as a *'joint bidding approach, commissioning and procurement, and will be the main point of contact for communications on such matters with the partner authorities and other organisations'*.
- 4.3.4 Financial contributions, as described in clause 4.2 above, will be made by way of a contribution to the City Council as the Lead Authority who will contract manage and monitor the arrangement on behalf of the partner local authorities who will have access to any information they may need under the 2018 Agreement.
- 4.3.5 As Lead Authority under the 2018 Agreement the City Council is also required to keep records of *'financial matters and budgeting; recruitment and selection processes; Strategy and Governance Board meetings; successful trainees and their employment destinations; and other documents relating to the overarching management of the programme'*.
- 4.3.6 In re-procuring the service from the University, the Council must comply with its Contracts Standing Orders and the Public Contract Regulations 2015. The statutory powers enabling the re-procurement by the Council are the section 111 subsidiary powers of the Local Government Act 1972 and the section 1 general power of competence of the Localism Act 2011.

4.4 Other Implications

None Applicable.

5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 There is an option not to have this bespoke accredited Post Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management in Social Work module and spot purchase places from other institutions at a higher cost.
- 5.2 We are classed by the DfE/DH as a Leading Social Work Teaching Partnership and carry high status nationally with other Partnerships

seeking our advice and support. We presented our sustainability and income generation plan at the recent National Teaching Partnership conference and were the only Teaching Partnership to have an income generation plan as DfE funding ceased in March 2019.

- 5.3 Social Work England (SWE) who is the new Social Work Regulator from December 2019 works in partnership with us and the Director of Social Work from the University of Sheffield is a member of the SWE HEI Advisory Group and a member of the Non- executive management board where the national Continuous Professional Development (CPD) standards are discussed. We are entering into a new CPD standards framework where social workers will be expected to upload their CPD onto the regulator's online portal on a quarterly basis which will be audited by the regulator.
- 5.4 The University of Sheffield Management school have agreed that we may offer their programme to other Public Sector employees as part of our contract at the same price.
- 5.5 As a region we have been able to influence national changes in social work education and have worked closely with the Chief Social Workers and other authorities to promote the benefits of partnership working. We would not wish to lose this status.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The South Yorkshire Teaching Partnership wish to continue our success and continue to embed our learning and high quality standards into our practice and become sustainable for the future. This is high profile work to be carried out on behalf of the government and will have significant status in the changing face of social work education. Collaborative regional partnership working is cost effective, provides better value for money and consistency.
- 6.2 Performance and standards in Senior Leadership in social work will be raised and will support our Ofsted inspection.
- 6.3 The price of the programme per capita is heavily discounted as a result of our relationship with the University of Sheffield Management school and their desire to give value back to the community.
- 6.4 We are able to offer the course to our multi-agency partners at a discounted price thereby improving CPD in their organisations where they would not necessarily be able to access courses at this high level and low cost.
- 6.5 The Partnership believes that this is the way forward for future training and retention of Managers and Leaders providing lifelong continuous professional career development. Our relationships with local Universities is commendable and as each year passes we embark on new initiatives which make us national trailblazers.

