

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES CABINET MEMBER**

**AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN:  
COMMISSIONING LOCALITY BASED ACTIVITIES**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To confirm the processes and outcomes of the commissioning of locality based activities for disabled children and young people, within the Aiming High agenda.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire was awarded £1.13m over two years (until March 2011) to deliver Short Breaks for disabled children and young people through the Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) programme. Following consultation with parent carers, and disabled children and young people (CYP), the AHDC Steering Group allocated £100k to develop locality-based activities. This was to develop specialist group based activities specifically for these CYP within each of the five localities. Existing activities for disabled CYP are limited, and often involve travelling from one end of North Lincolnshire to the other.

**3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 A full analysis of need was completed before the commissioning and assessment process commenced. The objective of all stages of the AHDC commissioning procedure was to ensure that the best outcomes were achieved at a best value level, meeting the requirements of disabled children and their parents.
- 3.2 Over 200 parent carers have been actively involved in consultation and participation, and have given over 230 points of view and recommendations. In addition, the views of approximately 100 disabled children and young people have also been taken into account. The highest scoring recommendation (33%) was to develop group based activities such as sports/activity clubs/swimming in each of the localities.
- 3.3 A Commissioning and Assessment Panel was put together to manage the commissioning and procurement process of the Locality Based Activities. The role of the panel was to decide which of the provider applications would best meet the needs of disabled children, young people and their families in North Lincolnshire.

The panel consisted of an appropriate mix of officers and a parent representative, who was the parent of one of our services users. He was

very thorough in questioning the providers during their interview, and represented parents very well. He has written in subsequently to say that he was pleased to take part in the process, and felt that his views and his contribution was valued as an equal member of the panel.

3.4 A request for quotations was uploaded onto SCMS, the council's Supplier Contract Management System. A questionnaire asked them to complete method statements around key areas such as safeguarding, workforce and training and development. We initially received 19 Expressions of Interest, and by the final deadline date there were seven actual applications, one of which did not meet the benchmark.

3.5 The six providers that were invited to interview were as follows:

- Amara Care
- Crosby Employment Bureau and North Lincolnshire Council
- Foresight
- Scunthorpe United Sports and Education Trust
- Services2Sport
- Westcliff Neighbourhood Drop In Centre

After the interviews, which included key questions around safeguarding, their ability to provide services for a diverse group of disabled children and young people, and their long term sustainability, the providers were assessed and graded individually by each member of the panel. These scores were aggregated to give overall panel grading.

3.6 The two organisations that were successful in this process were Foresight and Scunthorpe United Sports and Education Trust. The contract value allocated to these two organisations is £86,750. They are both registered charities, and the individual details are as follows:

#### 3.6.1 Foresight - £58,750

They will be delivering a range of activity sessions including arts and crafts, cookery, card making, mask making, games and group-based activities for disabled children and young people.

They will provide sessions on a rota basis throughout the five localities during school holidays and on Saturday's during term time. These sessions can either be a half day or a full day.

#### 3.6.2 Scunthorpe United Sports and Education Trust - £33,500

They will be delivering a range of sports based target activities including new age curling, Boccia (a game similar to bowls), football, deaf friendly football and power chair football for wheelchair users.

They will provide sessions on a rota basis throughout the five localities during school holidays and after school during term time.

3.7 The panel felt that the remainder of the £100,000 (£13,250) should be designated to swimming, in order to fulfil the outcomes of the parent consultation. Swimming came out quite high as an individual activity, and we

ran a successful pilot programme in partnership with leisure services in the summer holidays.

- 3.8 The recommendations from the Commissioning and Assessment Panel were presented to the AHDC Steering Group on Friday 28 August 2009 for approval, including the proposal to spend the remaining £13,250 on swimming activity. Steering group members ratified the process and the recommendations, and signature approvals were received by three representatives; LA Representative, PCT Representative and a Parent Representative.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Information report only.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

- 5.1 The overall contract value is £100,000.

- 5.2 The contract period is from October 2009 until 31 March 2011.

- 5.3 All staff will be employed by the contracted organisations.

#### **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

- 6.1 None at this time.

#### **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Over 200 parent carers have been actively involved in consultation and participation, and have given over 230 points of view and recommendations. The highest scoring recommendation (33%) was to develop group based activities such as sports/activity clubs/swimming in each of the localities.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Cabinet Member notes the report and supports the relevant commissioning decisions.

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:** N/A