

Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Thursday, 12 August 2021

Extension of Pupil Equity Funding Open Framework Agreement CT2232

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Finance and Resources Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 Approve; to allow the waiver of Contract Standing Orders to permit the extension of the Pupil Equity Funding Open Framework for the duration of 18 months to ensure continuity of the service provisions.

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Extension of Pupil Equity Funding Framework

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the current commissioning activity including the requirement to waive the requirement of Contract Standing Orders to allow the Pupil Equity Funding Open Framework to be extended for a period of 18 months from 7th September 2021 until February 2023.
- 2.2 This report is to request approval for:
- 2.2.1 the extension of the Pupil Equity Funding Open Framework (“PEF Framework”) for a period of eighteen months to promote access and enable compliant commissioning of services focused on closing the poverty related attainment gap in schools.
 - 2.2.2 The extension will allow Edinburgh schools the continued access to 106 providers as detailed in appendix 1.
- 2.3 It is estimated that the aggregated value of contracts awarded via the PEF Framework, will not exceed the estimated total value already approved in 2017. Based on previous years usage, it is estimated that this will come within the value approved.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government has committed to providing additional funding in the form of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF), to schools across Scotland as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge Programme. In April 2017, funding of £7.5M for 2017-2018 was directly allocated to Edinburgh Council schools with the aim of closing the poverty related attainment gap within schools. A similar level of funding has been provided annually throughout the duration of the current Scottish Government. Funding was allocated per school based on recipients of free school meals.
- 3.2 The main purpose of this framework is to support schools with PEF expenditure at the same time as complying with the procurement obligations of openness and transparency and ensuring appropriate terms and conditions and checks are put in place. Schools were asked to point existing or proposed providers to register on

Public Contracts Scotland which gives access to public authority contract opportunities.

- 3.3 The arrangement has worked well for the duration of the Framework¹. During academic year 20/21, however, due to the unprecedented times and the closure of schools, previously commissioned services have not been delivered as planned, whilst additional services, although required, have not been commissioned.
- 3.4 The Pupil Equity Funding Open Framework has allowed the schools to determine which services are suitable for their school, guaranteeing and encouraging access to micro and small to medium organisations from the private and voluntary sector who adhere to fair working practice policy. These organisations have been impacted significantly by the pandemic too.
- 3.5 As services slowly resume safely, in the spirit of mutual sustainability, and in the best interest of the children and the young people, Committee approval is being sought to extend the current contractual agreement until the end of 21/22 academic year, to allow continuation of services previously commissioned and implementation of further provisions in light of post Covid-19 circumstances and emerging needs of children and young people.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The framework is lotted in the following format:

Lot	Description
1	Activity Based Learning
2	Clubs (After School/ Breakfast)
3	Counselling, Support and Advice Services
4	Creative Engagement
5	External Tutors/ Additional Support
6	Mentoring
7	Pupil Workshops

- 4.2 Admission to the framework has not guaranteed work since the PEF Framework has been used at the discretion of schools. Schools have been able to direct award based on the pricing provided or complete a mini competition according to their

¹ Approved by [Finance and Resources Committee](#) 7th November 2017

requirements. The same mechanism will apply to the extension that this report seeks approval for.

- 4.3 The Council has opened the PEF Framework three times over for the duration of the agreement to enable new Service Providers to join the framework or current service providers to add additional services to the framework. This has resulted in greater flexibility and choice for schools while providing opportunities for new and or smaller organisations to work with schools. A total of 106 providers have been added to the PEF Framework and can deliver services if required by the schools
- 4.4 This has allowed the Headteachers to engage those providers who best meet the requirements of their school. Headteachers can use their discretion, knowledge and experience to select the most appropriate service provider given their knowledge of the child's circumstances and needs in order to provide the best outcome for each child.
- 4.5 As the Framework is due to expire on 7th September 2021, discussions have been ongoing with schools and Education Services as to plans for the future. It has been established that resources required to evaluate such a large number of potential providers mean that it is not possible to put in place a new framework currently due to current workloads both in schools and Commercial and Procurement Services.
- 4.6 Schools however still require the flexibility that the current PEF Framework provides in delivering services which support the objectives of closing the poverty related attainment gap, enhancing pupils' access to the curriculum and maximising educational achievements, literacy and social development. It is therefore proposed that the current PEF Framework be extended for a further 18months with work being undertaken shortly to look at how the objectives of PEF funding can best be met following reflection on evidenced based delivery models and delivery to date.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The request for eighteen months' renewal of the PEF Framework from 7th September 2021 to 6th February 2023 is due to the unprecedented circumstances and the closure of schools that the Council and the Community experienced last year.
- 5.2 Further consideration and co-production are being undertaken in collaboration with the service providers, key stakeholders, including those who use the services, and the wider school community, with a focus on implementing an effective agreement to secure best value and improved outcomes early in 2023.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The total value of the Open Framework approved by Finance and Resources Committee on 7th November 2017 is £4,000,000.
- 6.2 The open framework has allowed for transparency of pricing for all Edinburgh schools, resulting in consistent pricing.

- 6.3 Schools have had the opportunity to collaborate their requirements to make volume savings where service providers have allowed for this within their pricing structure.
- 6.4 It is estimated that the aggregated value of contracts awarded via PEF Framework, will not exceed the estimated total value already approved in 2017. Based on previous years usage, it is estimated that this will come within the value approved.
- 6.5 Budgetary provision exists for these commitments.
- 6.6 There are no revenue or capital costs associated with the report
- 6.7 There are no procurement costs associated with extending the current agreement.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The services provided under the PEF Framework are responding to the need for effective support and early intervention for children at school towards closing the poverty related attainment gap.
- 7.2 The views of the headteachers and the schools have been gathered through various forums over the four years including the Empowerment Finance Group, Working the Schools Business Managers Procurement Forum and PEF implementation group. The co-production prior to the establishment of the PEF Framework was extensive:
- 7.3 No significant environmental impacts are expected to arise from the extension of this contract.
- 7.4 This procurement has adhered to policy on Sustainable Procurement and the Scottish Governments guidance on Community Benefits

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Scottish Government Pupil Equity Fund Guidance.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – PEF complete supplier list

APPENDIX 1

PEF Complete Supplier List

Achieve Training

Action for Children Services

Apex Scotland

Articulate Language Camps

Baldy Bane Theatre

Barnardo's

Be Experimental

BeeBuddies

Bright Light

Caber Enterprises

Cannongate Youth Centre

Children 1st

Chroma

Circle

Citadel Youth Centre

Columba1400

Community Health Initiative

ComputerXploreres SEScotland

Core Assets Scotland

CrossReach

Cyrenians

Do-Be Mindful

Dundee Academy of Sport

Earth Calling

Eco Drama

Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust

Fast Forward

Friends of the Award

Gillian Dalgliesh

Glasgow Science Centre
Grampian Training Solutions
Health Opportunities Team
Home Link Family Support
Home-start Edinburgh West and South West
Impact Arts
Lead a Bright Future
Licketyspit
LifeLink
Live n Learn
Love Learning Scotland
MCFB
MCR Pathways
Mindset
Move On
Multi Cultural Family Base
NoTosh Limited
Osiris
Place2Be
PBS
Penumbra
People Know How
Pilmeny Development Project
Pilton Youth and Children's Project
Quarriers
Rathbone Training
Remade in Edinburgh
Resiliate
Rural and Urban Training Scheme
Sacro
School of Hard Knocks

Scottish Association for Mental Health
Scottish Sports Futures
Screen Education Edinburgh
Sinclair Wellbeing and Training Solutions
SkillsForce Development
Smart Play Network
Spartans Community Football Academy
Speech and Language Zone
Springboard
Strange Town
Tatty Bumpkin
The Brilliant Club
The Conservation Volunteers Scotland
The Drama Studio
The Fruitmarket Gallery
The Hive of Wellbeing
The Junction Young People Health and Wellbeing
The Moment is Now
The Prince's Trust
The Spark
The Speech and Language Communications
Company
Themis Training and Consultancy
Therapeutic Counselling
Volunteering Matters
Walk the Talk Studios
Wester Hailes Youth Agency
With Kids
YMCA
Venture Scotland
Rewise Learning

Edible estates

the Outward Bound Trust

Play2Learn Sports Coaching

My Adventure

Enable Scotland

Positive Realities