

Committee: Policy and Resources	Date: 14 th April 2016
Subject: Central London Forward – proposed collaboration to provide employment support for <i>Troubled Families</i>	Public
Report of: Director of Economic Development Report author: Liz Skelcher, Assistant Director	For information

Summary

The Central London Forward partnership (CLF) wishes to maximise central London local authorities' collective influence on the delivery of employment support for *Troubled Families* within the Central London area.

CLF, through the City of London Corporation as CLF's accountable body, ran a competitive process to identify a preferred and exclusive partner to develop a proposal for employment support for *Troubled Families* across the CLF local authorities and Lewisham. The Shaw Trust was selected as CLF's preferred partner. The proposal will form the basis of a bid for a grant of European Social Fund (ESF) monies, expected to be some £4m over 2-3 years.

Recommendation

Your Committee is recommended to note :-

- a. the collaboration between CLF, the London Borough of Lewisham and the Shaw Trust for the explicit purpose of developing a proposal for £4m ESF grant funds for a programme of employment support for *Troubled Families* in Central London;
- b. this proposal does not give rise to any additional financial liabilities for the City Corporation as any financial risks will sit with the Shaw Trust as the ESF grant recipient and party responsible for delivery of the project; and
- c. the next steps will be for CLF, the London Borough of Lewisham and City Corporation officers to agree the joint proposal with the Shaw Trust, and establish a collaboration agreement and any associated delivery agreements .

Main Report

Introduction

1. The Central London Forward partnership (CLF) - a strategic partnership of seven Central London authorities together with the City Corporation - wishes to maximise central London local authorities' collective influence on the delivery of employment support contracts for families within the Central London area requiring support under the Government's programme to support *Troubled Families* . (*Troubled families* are those that have problems and cause problems to the community around them, putting high costs on the public sector).The City

Corporation is the accountable body for CLF, providing central services for the partnership and hosting the staff team.

2. A specification and invitation to apply for European Social Fund (ESF) grant funding in this area of work is expected to be issued by Government, working with the Greater London Authority, imminently; with the work being delivered within the eight Central London Forward local authority areas and the London Borough (LB) of Lewisham. The value of the eventual ESF grant is expected to be approximately £4 million over 2-3 years.
3. Adopting a collective approach to this opportunity, CLF authorities and the London Borough of Lewisham have decided to develop a programme which will build on previous experience, including:-
 - a. Establishing a collaborative partnership that brings together local authority expertise of - the challenges faced by troubled families, provider expertise in providing and managing successful employment support on a large scale, and risk management of Payment by Results contracts;
 - b. Developing a robust referral mechanism for authorities to refer to the provider families who would benefit from more intensive employment support;
 - c. Developing a co-located and integrated service offer that complements local activity, reduces duplication and maximises impact for families.
4. CLF considered that such a programme would be most effectively developed by working in an exclusive partnership with a preferred partner from the private or third sectors who would then work with the participating authorities to develop a bid for the ESF grant funding.
5. Following a competitive process, the Shaw Trust has been selected as the successful bidder from amongst the eight parties which submitted Expressions of Interest. Shaw Trust is the largest UK charity currently delivery employment services for hard to help groups and have strong community interests in London. The proposal from Shaw Trust scored consistently higher than the other proposals against all of the measures. They specifically demonstrated:-
 - a. a robust understanding of the failures associated with the past programme and ways to mitigate these in the future;
 - b. a strong commitment to developing a collaborative approach that would draw in the best of local government expertise and their commercial and operational understanding of employment support for hard to help groups;
 - c. an understanding of the wider strategic value added by the opportunity and demonstrated a strong commitment to direct engagement in the local community and working collaboratively with local third sector partners in the delivery of these services.

Proposal

6. The Committee is asked to note the new collaboration between CLF, the LB of Lewisham and the Shaw Trust with the explicit purpose of developing a proposal for £4m ESF grant funds for a programme of employment support for families in Central London requiring support under the Government's *Troubled Families* programme. (Work will now be undertaken to formalise the arrangements with support from the City Corporation officers).

Implications

7. The ESF funding will be controlled by the 'co-financing' organisation (the Department for Work and Pensions) and administered with input from the Greater London Authority. ESF monies and any associated financial risk and liability would sit with the Shaw Trust as the ESF grant recipient.
8. The arrangements agreed will need to be robust, and provide clarity on any financial and risk implications for those involved and how these risks will be managed. A specific collaboration agreement, and subsequent associated delivery agreements between the CLF authorities, the LB of Lewisham and the Shaw Trust will be drawn up with officers, specifying how each party will contribute to the development of the bid, and the operational commitments associated with a successful bid. The arrangements will also be overseen by a 'Joint Board' with representation from all partners.
9. There would be no direct financial risk to the City Corporation, as CLF's accountable body.
10. Reputational and operational risks will be mitigated by adopting a collaborative approach from the outset, developing shared outcomes, and embedding strong engagement within the participating the local authorities at an operational and political level.
12. The proposed collaboration represents a new way of working in partnership with an employment support provider through an exclusive relationship that maximises local government leverage on the strategic and operational delivery model adopted in the local delivery of this support. Given the evolving strategic mission of the Shaw Trust to invest in local communities, this partnership also represents a potential opportunity to explore future collaboration in different areas if successful and if other funding sources become available.

Contact:

Liz Skelcher , Assistant Director of Economic Development

liz.skelcher@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Tel 020 7332 3606