

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Award of Apprenticeship programme for Social Work (Degree) apprenticeships.
Date of decision:	17 th September 2020
Decision maker:	Assistant Director for People
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Directorate: Corporate Centre Scheme of Delegation</p> <p>Article 79- Approval of spend and the allocation of funds to providers from the council's apprenticeship levy fund.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Not applicable
Decision made:	<p>Award of contract to the University of Kent, to deliver 21 apprenticeship Social Worker (Degree) Apprenticeships, following a competitive open tender process via the ProContract portal.</p> <p>The contract will be in place for up to 5 years from 9th October 2020 at a cost of £22,770.00 per apprentice which includes 1 resit of end point assessment if required. If further resits are needed this would carry an additional cost of £1,600.00 for each resit.</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>The University of Kent have submitted the most financially advantageous tender and have complied with all other elements of the tender procedure.</p> <p>The University of Kent scored the highest during the moderated panel tender evaluation process.</p> <p>The council has a skills gap and challenge in recruiting qualified social workers, this is a challenge mirrored nationally. The council therefore has a plan to 'Grow Our Own' social workers in both Adults' and Children's directorates to address this issue. The increase in the number of social workers will lead to improved service provision for service users</p> <p>As a large employer the council makes mandatory contributions to the government apprenticeship levy pot. The University of Kent will draw down the funding directly from the government Apprenticeship levy fund.</p> <p>The University of Kent is registered on the Register of Approved Training Providers to deliver an approved apprenticeship leading to a degree-level qualification in social work.</p> <p>The council has conducted a compliant procurement process and an outcome has been identified based on the results of the evaluation carried out by a panel.</p>

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The financial risk is low as the funding is accessed by the University of Kent direct from the apprenticeship levy, funding does not from a council budget.</p> <p>Apprentices will be recruited internally through expressions of interest and an Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out to ensure the process is fair to all.</p> <p>No health and safety implications or other risks have been anticipated.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Not to proceed with the apprenticeship programme. This was rejected for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant tenders were submitted and evaluated. • The council already pays into the apprenticeship levy and if this money is not used then it will expire and be lost. • There is a shortage of qualified social workers in the county.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: 08.10.2020