

## Brighton & Hove City Council

**Meeting:** Children & Young People's Trust Board

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008

**Report of:**  
Director of Children's Services

**Subject:** Connexions Procurement

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To seek approval from the Children and Young People's Trust (CYPT) Board for the recommendation outlined below.

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. To agree that the Chair of the CYPT Board and the Director of Children's Services should have the delegated authority to approve the awarding of the Connexions IAG contract during April/May 2008.

### 3. Information / Background

- 3.1. At the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007 CYPT Board meeting it was agreed that the Connexions IAG contract should be put out for tender with new arrangements to start in September 2008.
- 3.2. The contract is for the period September 2008 to March 2011 with an annual contract value of £974,000.00
- 3.3. A procurement process is underway under the guidance of the Corporate Procurement Team.
- 3.4. A tender evaluation panel has been formed under the chairmanship of the Assistant Director for the West Area and Youth Support. The panel consists of council officers and external partners. The evaluation will take place in March/April 2008.
- 3.5. As per Contract Standing Order 3.1, it is required that approval is sought from the relevant committee as the contract value is more than £500,000.00.
- 3.6. The procurement process will be completed in April 2008. However the next CYPT Board meeting after April is likely to be in June 2008 (no confirmed date yet). If approval is sought at the June meeting, there will not be sufficient time to allow systematic implementation of the new

arrangements. The transition process will be particularly challenging if there is a change of provider.

<b>Meeting/Date</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> March 2008</b>	
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Connexions procurement</b>	
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>	
<b>Financial implications</b>	<p>The report refers to the Connexions contract.</p> <p>For connexions the Council receives grant funding of £2.2million which is paid as a Government Grant and is part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and based on a formula agreed by the DCFS each year.</p> <p>Receiving the grant through the LAA provides the council with greater flexibility in use of the funding than if it had been allocated as a separate grant. This report refers to an element of the grant relating to the Connexions IAG contract which forms part of the overall £2.2 million budget.</p> <p>As a result of awarding the contract there will be no additional costs to the council in 2008/09 although the budget holder will need to continue to review all connexions costs to ensure it is within the total grant funding received.</p> <p><i>Finance Officer consulted: Paul Brinkhurst Date 5 February 2008.</i></p>	
<b>Legal implications</b>	<p>Connexions is a Part B service for the purpose of EU procurement law and UK procurement regulations, and is therefore not subject to the full application of either. The Council is nevertheless required to ensure that it obtains best value in a non-discriminatory and transparent way, in accordance with the overriding objectives of the EU law. The proposed tendering exercise complies with this requirement. The Council must take the Human Rights Act into account in respect of its actions but it is not considered that any individual's Human Rights Act rights would be adversely affected by the recommendations in this report.</p> <p><i>Lawyer consulted: Alison Leitch /Date 5 February 2008</i></p>	
<b>Corporate/Citywide implications</b>	<p>These proposals take account of key corporate and citywide proposals, specifically those set out in the Children &amp; Young People's Plan.</p>	<b>Risk assessment</b>
<b>Sustainability implications</b>	<p>Sustainability is determined by Brighton &amp; Hove City Council continuing to receive Connexions funding via the LAA</p>	<p>Financial and legal risks are set out above</p>
<b>Equalities implications</b>	<p>These proposals fully support the equalities policies of the Children and Young People's Trust partners.</p>	
<b>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder</b>		
<p>The proposals in this paper will fully support the prevention of crime and disorder as set out in the Children &amp; Young People's Plan.</p>		
<b>Background papers</b>		
<p>Not applicable</p>		

**Contact Officer**

*Gillian Cunliffe, Assistant Director 293447*

*Philip Ward, Commissioning Manager Youth and Connexions 294270*

*Rima Desai, Contracts & Performance Manager Youth and Connexions 290334*