

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee

**DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community

**SUBJECT:** MODUS Software

**WARDS:** Borough Wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek agreement to enter into a contract without seeking three written quotations in order to comply with procurement standing order 4.1, which places a requirement on the Council to invite quotations or tender for contracts with a value less than £50,000 unless the Operational Director and Monitoring Officer agree otherwise.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) Paloma Systems Ltd. be appointed to provide MODUS software and support services in the sum of £14,500 over the period March 2010 to March 2012.
- (2) In light of the exceptional circumstances, namely compliance with standing orders is not practical due to time and spend conditions of the Home Office grant available and specialist software required, and in accordance with procurement standing orders 1.6, procurement standing orders 4.1 be waived on this occasion.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Presently the Halton Domestic Abuse Forum (HDAF) monitors the Halton Domestic Abuse Service through data provided by the commissioned service for Performance Management Framework. There is no access to real time live data and no audit process to check for reliability. A similar system exists for the data collection from the ISVA provider. Thus, a need has been identified for a more robust approach to performance management and data collection.

MODUS software, developed by Paloma Systems Ltd, for use by Local Authority Areas provides the HDAF with the ability to collate information collected around Government Crime Reduction Initiatives and is a Home Office endorsed tool. This software system is able to meet the Local Authorities requirements in this area with the following specific elements:

- Specific IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) and ISVA case management

- SDVC (Specialist Domestic Violence Court) monitoring
- Data collection in relation to NI 26 and NI 32
- SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) data collection
- MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) automatic referral and action list capabilities.

#### **4.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR WAIVERING TENDERING SO'S**

##### **4.1 VALUE FOR MONEY AND COMPETITION**

- 4.1.1 Following Halton's expression of interest a pan-Cheshire approach to MODUS adoption was identified as a cost saving exercise that could lead to greater tracking ability of Domestic Abuse cases within the Cheshire region. Cheshire East and West and Warrington areas have confirmed plans to purchase this software. As a result, Paloma Systems Ltd. has agreed that they will allow the significant server licence cost to be divided between all four areas which would offer Halton a cost saving of £3,750.
- 4.1.2 During discussions around this initiative a Government Grant has been awarded to the value of £14,500 to purchase MODUS software. This grant is allocated specifically to this purchase and requires use by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010.
- 4.1.3 At this time there do not appear to be any other potential providers for this software that offers the same capacity as outlined above in section 3.
- 4.1.4 The Local Authority currently has an opportunity to make significant cost savings in relation to this project that would not otherwise be available due to joint area initiatives and government grant availability.

##### **4.2 TRANSPARENCY**

- 4.2.1 These proposals are open to scrutiny via internal and external audit and via the Freedom of Information Act.
- 4.2.2 The contract would be awarded based on grant approval and software endorsed by central government.

##### **4.3 PROPERTY AND SECURITY**

- 4.3.1 Integrity clauses will be built into the contract document.
- 4.3.2 The contract, if approved, will fully comply with HBC's Standing Orders.

##### **4.4 ACCOUNTABILITY**

- 4.4.1 This remains with the Operational Director, Culture and Leisure Services, in conjunction with the relevant portfolio holder.

4.4.2 All matters will be scrutinised by internal/external audit and the relevant Policy and Performance Board.

#### 4.4.3 POSITION OF THE CONTRACT UNDER THE PUBLIC CONTRACTS REGULATIONS 2006

4.4.4 The contract is fully compliant, and subject to fundamental transparency and non-distortion of competition requirements.

### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are currently limited financial implications for this proposal as the contract value will be met through an already identified Home Office Grant.

5.2 This proposal will support the Safer Halton priority through provision of a robust data infrastructure to support those services to victims of serious and sexual violence. The proposal has been reviewed and endorsed by the Safer Halton PPB working group.

5.3 ICT have confirmed they could see no specific issues with MODUS purchase as it is a web based software and does not require any on site hardware. Thus, there do not appear to be any issues in relation to the Code of Conduct.

### **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

#### **6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

This proposal helps to support robust safeguarding children arrangements.

#### **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

#### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

This proposal supports the delivery of services that address health inequalities.

#### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

The improved collation and analysis of data collected by the system should ensure better planning, commissioning & delivery of services.

#### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Not approving this proposal will result in the following:

- i. Loss of the awarded £14,500 Home Office Grant
- ii. Loss of a pan-Cheshire victim and perpetrator tracking capability

7.2 Whilst adoption of this software could occur at a later date it cannot be guaranteed that external sources of funding could be identified and secured. Thus, failure to move forward with the MODUS proposal within the 2009 financial year may preclude the HDAF participating in this initiative in the future.

7.3 Similarly, it has been identified that this system has potential for improving resource capacity for the IDVA service so ongoing implications could be less support to victims of Domestic Abuse.

7.4 The contract awarded and subsequent monitoring will comply with procurement standing orders.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are currently no known issues in relation to this software impacting on diversity or equality issues. It should be noted that this software does contain the potential for greater recording of black and minority ethnic community issues within Domestic Abuse should it be decided to utilise those elements in the future. For example, a data field to collate data in relation to Honour Based Violence.

8.2 Agencies awarded a contract would be expected to comply with the Council policies relating to Ethnicity and Cultural Diversity as well as promoting inclusion.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

N/A