Families First Commissioning Update
Issue 6 – 08/10/12

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1. Introduction
This is the sixth issue of a series of updates to keep stakeholders and partners informed of developments regarding key events in the Families First commissioning process.

2. Evaluation Process
Issue 5 of the Commissioning Updates reported the outcome of the evaluation process which took place over the summer in relation to the Outline Submissions. The process involved a partnership team of evaluators which consisted of experts within the field (statutory and voluntary sector), professionals who work with families and young people, and a representative from the Parents’ Network. In addition, children and young people were supported to carry out their own parallel process of evaluation.

As a result of the evaluation and the formal decision making process within the Council a number of lead bidders were invited to participate in dialogue regarding their outline submissions. This part of the process gave the opportunity for the Commissioning Team to explore the bids in more detail with the consortia and clarify key points which could inform the Invitation to Submit Final Tender documentation. It was also an opportunity to discuss mobilisation and transition arrangements for the new services.

As a reminder, the following LEAD bidders were invited to participate in dialogue and have recently been invited to submit their final proposals for delivery of services to achieve the Families First outcomes. Please note that in addition to the Council and Cardiff & Vale UHB, there are 3 other public and 40 third sector organisations included as collaborative partners across the 12 bids.

LOT 1 – Early Years
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
3. Procurement Timescales

Following completion of the dialogue process, the Invitation to Submit Final Tender (ISFT) documentation was issued to qualified bidders on Thursday 4th October with the final bids required to be submitted by midday on 14th November.

The evaluation of the bids will take the same multi-agency format as previously and will take place between Friday 16th November 2012 and Friday 30th November 2012.

Our intention is that all bidders will be notified of the decisions made on Friday 7th December 2012 although this will be subject to a 10 day call in period as part of the Council’s formal decision making process. Following the end of the call in period it is intended that contracts are awarded on 20th December with new services being in place by 1st April 2013.

4. Transition Arrangements

As part of the transition from Cymorth to Families First, all projects have been informed that their existing funding will cease on 31st March 2013 (unless they continue as part of the new Families First services).

In order to manage the transition from the existing programme to the new services, the Families First team has been meeting with all projects currently funded through Cymorth to discuss future plans, identify any potential gaps in services and, with the
support of Cardiff 3rd Sector Council, to consider other funding opportunities which may be available.

As part of the ongoing support, C3SC will be running a funding workshop early in the new year once the commissioning process has been completed. The date for the session will be circulated in the near future, however support and advice is available now by contacting Leoni Oxenham, Third Sector Officer at C3SC at leoni.o@c3sc.org.uk

### 5. Team Around The Family (TAF)

A key requirement of the Welsh Government is for each local area to have in place a Team Around the Family (TAF) approach and a Joint Assessment Family Framework (JAFF) by 1st April 2013.

The TAF model in Cardiff will be implemented by a core team of family workers who will put into place the arrangements for identifying, assessing and responding to families who need a TAF approach. The team will seek to engage providers of services to children, young people and their families as members of Teams Around the Family, as appropriate to the families’ assessed needs and whether funded through Families First or not. They will place families at the centre throughout intervention and use a restorative and strengths-based approach in working with them.

Two TAF pathfinders have been operating over the last 6-12 months through schools in the East (Rumney High School) and the West of the city (Michaelston/Glynderw Federation) and these have been used to test the criteria and preferred delivery mechanisms. As a result of this learning a specification for a city-wide approach has been developed and an OJEU notice for the commissioning of the new service was published on 28th September. Following qualification of bidders, bids will be invited for submission by 10th December with evaluation taking place on 18th-19th December 2012. As part of their bids potential providers of the TAF model will need to demonstrate how their model will work in conjunction with the six Families First ‘service’ commissioning packages.

Details of the tender documentation for interested is available via the Alito procurement website or if you require any general information, please contact FamiliesFirst@cardiff.gov.uk

### 6. Further Information

If you have any queries or require any further information, please contact the Families First commissioning team at FamiliesFirst@cardiff.gov.uk