

## **CSE INQUIRY MEMBER ADVISORY GROUP**

**Minutes of a meeting of the CSE Inquiry Member Advisory Group held on  
Wednesday, 21 November 2018 at 6.00pm  
in meeting rooms G3/4 Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford**

**Present:** Councillors S Bentley (from 6.09pm), K T Blundell N A M England,  
T J Nelson, H Rhodes, and P J Scott

Members of the Reference Panel: Carol and Mandie

**In Attendance:** Suzanne Dodd (Governance & Legal Services Manager and Deputy  
Monitoring Officer), Jonathan Eatough (Assistant Director:  
Governance, Procurement & Commissioning and Monitoring Officer)  
and Deborah Moseley (Democratic and Scrutiny Services Team  
Leader)

### **CSEIMAG - 11      Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **CSEIMAG - 12      Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **CSEIMAG - 13      Minutes**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2018 be confirmed  
and signed by the Chair.

### **CSEIMAG - 14      The Appointment of the Commissioning Body**

The Governance and Legal Services Manager explained that a robust procurement and evaluation process for the tender for the appointment of a Commissioning Body had taken place. The report set out the evaluation process in detail, which included the involvement of an independent consultant, Maggie Atkinson who was previously a Director of Children's Services, President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services and was the former Children's Commissioner for England (appointed in 2010). Ms Atkinson's report was appended to the main report which she confirmed the evaluation process was transparent, clear, impartial and appropriate.

The Monitoring Officer advised that he had received a statement from survivor representatives who had attended the evaluation day: "Two survivors and a member of the Survivors Committee attended the evaluation day to observe the analysis of the bid that had been received. All involved agreed that the bid was of an excellent standard and met the criteria set out in the tender document. Overall, the survivors

and the Survivors Committee are satisfied that that the process was done fairly and in a transparent manner. We look forward to meeting the successful candidate.”

The Governance and Legal Services Manager noted that the report set out the key strengths of the successful bidder which included a proven track record of undertaking inquiries, an excellent knowledge of CSE, experience of recruiting a Chair and delivering inquiries in a very tight timescale.

Members sought clarity on the cost evaluation in terms of competitiveness and affordability and it was acknowledged that there was only one bidder but that the bid was based on an hourly rate and was within the expected range for work of this nature. A typographical error in paragraph 6.1 was noted.

**Resolved – that the successful bidder be awarded the Commissioning Body contract, subject to the regulatory 10 day standstill period (which will commence on 22 November 2018).**

The name of the bidder was withheld until after the vote in order to ensure there was no undue influence. The successful bidder was named as Eversheds Sutherland International LLP.

## **CSEIMAG - 15      CSE Investigation**

The Monitoring Officer referred Members to the report and noted a typographical error on page 27 in that the last meeting was actually on 20 June 2018. Members also noted in paragraph 4 of the report that assurance point 1 should also reflect that the inquiry should also establish the current position with regard to CSE.

Members sought clarification on the management of the tender specifically with regard to the control of the timetable and were advised that a monitoring function would be retained and the contract would include a report schedule with key milestones for reporting progress.

Members sought clarification of the term “preferred provider” for support services and were advised that this was designed as part of the tender process to ensure that the parties would be able to work together.

Members also sought an understanding of the report process and were advised that the draft report would be submitted to Cabinet and Survivors at the same time, Cabinet would prepare an Action Plan which would be submitted to the Council.

A Survivors Committee representative addressed the Committee regarding “myths” about the length of time the process had taken from the first meeting of the Group to this meeting, noting that the delay was initially a result of Councillors Nelson and Bentley seeking survivors’ involvement at an earlier stage than planned, for which she was grateful. However, she felt that the survivors were being solely blamed in the media for subsequent delays and this was not the case. She stated that other delays were due to a misunderstanding and lack of information about processes, hence more time was requested by the Survivors Committee including time to find an

instruct a solicitor to act on their behalf. Therefore the delay was due to many factors, not solely the Survivors Committee.

**Resolved that the progress update be noted.**

The Chair confirmed that the Commissioning Body would now take over the process.

The meeting ended at 6.15pm

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....