



## Part 2 Specification

### Contract Reference

**TCORP2119**

### Contract Title

**Torbay Council Standing List for  
Lot 2 – Approved Social Worker Agency  
Providers 2019-2023**

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# 1. Overall Scope and Nature of the Requirement

The purpose of this Tender process is to identify successful Agency Providers who will be selected for a place on the Standing List of Approved Social Worker Agency Providers. There is no limit to the number of Providers that will be selected to join the List.

The Standing List of Approved Temporary Agency Staff Providers provides no guarantee of any work to the Provider. The Standing List contains only a list of Providers who are pre-qualified to put forward Candidates for a temporary position when the need arises.

When a new requirement for an Agency Worker arises, all Providers on the relevant Standing List will be invited to put forward Candidate's for the available temporary position and the selection will be based upon an assessment of the Candidate's CV and the outcome following an interview undertaken by the Authority.

The Standing List will be opened every twelve months to enable new Providers to apply to join the list. New Applicants will have to follow the same Tender process in order to be selected for a place on the Standing List.

The Authority requires Agency Providers that are able to supply for temporary (Professional and other role) positions. The types of positions that will typically be requested are listed below.

- Social Worker
- Experienced Social Worker
- Specialist (Advanced/Consultant) Social Worker
- Assistant Team Manager
- Team Manager/Independent Reviewing Officer

## 2. Mandatory Requirements

The Authority has set out a number of Mandatory Requirements within this Specification, these are identified with the inclusion of the wording **(Mandatory Requirement)** against whole sections or individual requirements. Applicants will be required to confirm their compliance with these Mandatory Requirements within their Stage Two Tender Submission.

## 3. Minimum Requirements

### 3.1 **(Mandatory Requirement)** Disclosure and Barring Service Checks

Roles may require basic, standard or enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

The Agency Provider must undertake a new DBS check for the Agency Worker (if it is a requirement of the role) unless the DBS Update Service has been used. It is a Mandatory requirement that no Agency Worker should commence working for Torbay Council, without the DBS being confirmed and in place.

In the event of any query the Agency Provider must contact the Human Resources Contract Manager prior to the commencement of any worker.

The Agency Provider must cover the costs associated for undertaking a Disclosure and Barring Service check. Torbay Council will not reimburse any costs associated with this, whether they are the direct costs of the check or for the administrative costs involved.

### 3.2 **(Mandatory Requirement)** Professional Registrations

Torbay Council requires proof of professional membership registration (HCPC Registration) and status to the appropriate professional body, for each proposed candidate.

### 3.3 Temporary to Permanent

There may be occasions when an Agency Worker who is, or has been on placement from the Agency Provider to Torbay Council, wishes to apply for direct employment.

Torbay Council always advertises permanent positions. They will not offer permanent employment to an Agency Worker without inviting other applications and going through a process of assessing the merits of applicants in relation to the specific position.

**(Mandatory Requirement)** Torbay Council will not pay temporary to permanent fees to the Agency Provider unless by specific agreement in advance.

### 3.4 **(Mandatory Requirement)** Introductory Fees

Torbay Council will not pay introductory fees to the Agency Provider unless by specific agreement in advance.

### 3.5 Auto Enrolment

The Agency Provider will confirm to automatic enrolment regulations and ensure that Agency Workers are enrolled into a pension scheme.

### 3.6 **(Mandatory Requirement)** Placement Not Required

There may be occasions when Torbay Council has notified the Agency Provider of an anticipated placement for an Agency Worker, but in the event the placement does not materialise (for example because a permanent worker returns to work after sick leave).

The Agency Provider will make no charge to Torbay Council, in such a case, where an Agency Worker reports for work, but there is no work to be done.

### **3.7 Previously Employed by Torbay Council**

The Agency Provider shall check with Torbay Council's Children's Services, prior to the placement, to ensure that they do not provide Agency Workers in any of the following instances:

- a. Where the Agency Worker has previously been a permanent employee of Torbay Council and has left within the last two years on grounds of early retirement and/or redundancy;
- b. Where an Agency Worker has previously been employed within the last six months by Torbay Council.
- c. An ex-employee of Torbay Council who has been fairly dismissed under the Authority's disciplinary or capability procedures or on the grounds of absence, or where proposed work to be carried out by the Agency Worker is the same, or very similar to that from which they were dismissed;
- d. An existing Torbay Council employee who is currently working more than sixteen hours per week.

### **3.8 Advertising**

Torbay Council will not jointly fund, or contribute financially towards any commercial advertising.

### **3.9 Terms and Conditions**

Agency Workers provided from the Standing List of Approved Social Worker Agency Providers must be provided in accordance with the Torbay Council Contract Agency Worker Terms and Conditions. **(Mandatory Requirement)** It is a mandatory requirement that the Agency Worker is not provided under the Agency Provider's own Terms and Conditions.

### **3.10 Working Practice**

**(Mandatory Requirement)** The Agency Provider must:

- a. Conform to automatic enrolment regulations and ensure that Agency Workers are enrolled into a pension scheme;
- b. Have full working knowledge and be fully compliant with the current Working Time Directive and the Agency Worker Directive and be able to commit to future legislative changes and remain compliant;
- c. Demonstrate appropriate working practices in its day-to-day operation and that they are fully compliant with current, future and proposed legislation;
- d. Maintain its qualifications and membership/s to professional bodies. Likewise, the Agency Provider's Staff must have relevant training and or experience to ensure they act in accordance with the requirements of the Contract.

### **3.11 Equal Opportunities and Disabled Monitoring**

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Torbay Council aims to offer equal opportunities in employment to all sections of the community, regardless of race, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, age, marital status or disability. Torbay Council will accept any person referred by the Agency Provider for placement, provided they can fulfil the requirements for the work involved and satisfy any other employment related requirements.

In the same way that Torbay Council is committed to offering equal opportunities the Agency Provider must also ensure that all sections of the community, candidates from ethnic or minority groups and those with physical or mental disabilities have equal access to any assignments available from Torbay Council under this Contract.

In recruiting and employing temporary staff the Agency Provider will take all reasonable steps to achieve and maintain a workforce that reflects each of the various groups represented in the local community and that all vacancies are advertised in accordance with the relevant equalities legislation.

### **3.12 Data Protection and Record Retention**

The Agency Provider must be fully compliant with current Data Protection Legislation and should be able to demonstrate that there is an effective policy throughout the workplace, which shows how sensitive data is collected and collated for discussion with Torbay Council if required.

**(Mandatory Requirement)** It is a mandatory requirement of the contract that the Agency provider has a Data Protection/Information Governance policy in place and will protect data shared between the Authority and your organisation using an encryption platform such as Egress or TLS (Transport Layer Security).

The Agency Provider will ensure that all Agency Workers supplied to Torbay Council give permission to share their details and that their data may also be released to the National Fraud Register, and in the event of suspected fraudulent/criminal activity the relevant law enforcement agencies will be contacted.

Information on Agency Workers should be held by the Agency Provider for six years from the last date of engagement with Torbay Council.

### **3.13 (Mandatory Requirement) Agency Provider's Recruitment and Selection Process Requirements**

When recruiting and selecting Agency Workers, the Agency provider must ensure the following is covered:

- a. Torbay Council policies on safer recruitment are followed (the Authority's Recruitment Policy is at Appendix G);
- b. A skills assessment is undertaken and verified, together with the verification of relevant required qualifications, which are all documented. The Agency provider must be able to demonstrate and provide evidence that the Worker has the relevant qualification and experience. Spot audits may be carried out by Torbay Council to check this is being undertaken;
- c. Face-to-face interviews are held with potential candidates who are appropriate to the assignment that they are being pre-selected for;

- d. The interview process followed covers previous work experience, qualifications, knowledge and skills, together with aptitude and ability;
- e. Where face-to-face interviews may not be practical, an alternative fully documented process is followed for interviewing candidates, except for those roles which require an Enhanced DBS check whereby an alternative process is not acceptable (the Authority's Guidelines for Criminal Records Checks is at Appendix D);
- f. Where an Enhanced DBS service check is required for the role, Torbay Council safer recruitment policies are followed and all gaps in employment are explored, with reasons documented. For assignments that do not require such checks to be carried out the Agency Worker will be required to sign a self-declaration form;
- g. A documented transcript of the interview and all correspondence pertaining to the references must be available and provided promptly, upon request, and in any event within five days of the original request at no extra cost to the Authority. In addition to the above if a candidate is selected for a placement, Torbay Council will interview potential Agency Workers face to face or by other methods prior to engagement, at no extra cost to Torbay Council;
- h. In accordance with Torbay Council's policy (the Authority's References Policy is at Appendix H), references and checks from all previous employers and/or academic institutions must be undertaken by the Agency Provider for the preceding three years before a selected candidate starts a placement. One of the references must be from the Agency Worker's last employment or last place of study. Bearer References are not acceptable. All references must be verified by the agency to ensure that they are valid and have been issued by the appropriate officer within the organisation. This should be evidenced. The same applies for all positions included in the Exceptions Order to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and in respect to any regulated positions as defined by the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000;
- i. Gaps in employment or education must be explored and the reasons documented. In addition the gaps in employment or education must be covered by additional character references. Verbal references will not be acceptable under any circumstances. In order to comply with national minimum standards, original ID documents must be provided by the Agency Worker on day 1 of the assignment i.e. passport, original birth certificate for all required posts Council wide Telephone enquiries should be made to each referee to verify the written references and this should be documented;
- j. Where a reference indicates or suggests that the Agency Worker does not meet the standards required by Torbay Council they will not be engaged in work under this Standing List;
- k. Employment. A full eligibility to work check must be undertaken on every Agency Worker before they are put forward to Torbay Council as a potential candidate, taking into account the relevant Employment Legislation. Torbay Council must be informed that this check has been undertaken, which must include a copy of the verification document; On the first day of the assignment, the Agency Worker must



bring their passport and their DBS check (where applicable) to Human Resources for verification purposes.

- l. Torbay Council will not be held accountable for any Agency Worker found not to have eligibility to work in the UK as this is an explicit requirement and responsibility of the Agency Provider. If the Agency Provider is found not to have verified an Agency Worker's eligibility to work in the UK they would be in breach of this Contract and Torbay Council reserves the right to terminate the Contract;
- m. In the case of an Agency Worker that is working on a restricted visa or that is only eligible to work in the UK for a specified length of time or a student that may be eligible to only work restricted hours it will be the responsibility of the Agency Provider to keep Torbay Council informed as to the continued eligibility status of that Agency Worker. Should this status change to the extent that the Agency Worker is no longer eligible to work in the UK, the Agency Provider must inform Torbay Council that the Worker must be removed from the placement. If this is not followed the Agency Provider is in breach of this Contract and Torbay Council reserves the right to terminate the Contract for this reason;
- n. A written set of terms and conditions is provided on which the Agency Worker is engaged. These are typically classed as a contract of/for services depending on the employment status of the Agency Provider.
- o. All recruitment check information and evidence of the recruitment and evidence of recruitment process should be documented and sent by an encryption platform such as Egress or TLS to the Children's Services Contract Manager, prior to the Agency Worker commencing on the Torbay contract. In the event of any query the Agency Provider must contact the Contract Manager prior to the commencement of any worker.

### **3.14 The Process for Booking an Agency Worker**

The following process will be followed when a new placement is required by Torbay Council:

An Instruction form will be emailed out to all Agency Providers on the Standing List for Lot 2, detailing the placement that is required and the submission deadline. The following information will be provided:

- Date and time of instruction
- Agreed response time for applications
- Job Title and Job Description
- Whether a curriculum vitae is required
- Provisional start date of assignment
- Location
- Hours of work
- Disclosure and Barring service check requirement
- Essential qualifications/licence requirements etc

Completed cover sheets detailing all relevant information must be submitted via email for each potential candidate that is being put forward for consideration.

The email must list the potential candidates that are attached, also confirming that the right

to represent has been sought.

The list will be shortlisted in accordance with the relevant job description and person specification and the appropriate candidates will be invited to interview.

Following the interview process, the most suitable candidate will be selected.

A Booking Form will be sent to the Agency Provider to formally request the selected candidate. The Agency Provider must confirm acceptance of this booking, also providing the weekly total cost and projected cost of booking exclusive of VAT.

The following information will be provided:

- Date and time of booking request
- Business unit/department
- Recruiting manager name and contact details
- Line manager's name and contact details
- Job title of Agency Worker
- Name of the Agency Worker
- Start date and time of assignment
- Location
- Hours of work
- End date of assignment
- Pay rate
- Bill rate
- Purchase order number/ ECAN number
- DBS check requirements
- Essential qualifications / licences etc.
- PPE requirements
- IR35 check
- Fluency Duty check

Before an Agency Worker starts a new placement, the Agency Provider shall confirm the following with the Recruiting Manager by submitting a Front Sheet:

- A registration or application form has been completed
- An interview was undertaken by the Agency Provider
- A skills-assessment has been completed, their qualifications and experience validated and has been fully referenced for the previous three years
- That relevant DBS checks and/or registration is satisfactory and relevant for the post they are assigned to
- Evidence of their eligibility to work in the UK has been received and copies of such eligibility has been, with a copy provided to Torbay Council
- Written terms and conditions of employment or service have been provided
- A signed confidentiality agreement has been received
- That the recruiting manager has placed the order in accordance with the required guidelines and that a purchase order and ECAN number has been provided with the booking (and included on the verification documentation)
- All evidence of the recruitment process has been documented and is available to Torbay Council to inspect at any time and without notice.

### 3.15 Agency Worker Induction Supervision and Management

**(Mandatory Requirement)** For any assignment of one week or more the Agency Provider will not charge Torbay Council for the first hour of the assignment in order that the required on-site induction can be carried out. This will only apply to new Agency Workers assigned to Torbay Council for the first time, or if an Agency Worker is assigned to a different building or an assignment in another location. The Agency Worker must however be paid for their time.

**(Mandatory Requirement)** For each new placement, the Agency Worker must undergo a full induction by the Agency Provider before they can begin their assignment. This should be a comprehensive guide covering a range of useful and mandatory information to include the following:

- The Code of Conduct for Agency Workers
- Maps detailing the relevant locations and access arrangements
- Necessary contact numbers
- Information concerning parking arrangements and smoking
- The working hours expected of the Agency Worker
- Dress code and working environments
- Health and safety and procedural information

Torbay Council will provide information outside of the above to Agency Workers on the following matters:

- Facilities at the workplace
- Workstation arrangements
- Fire and emergency procedures – evacuation and assembly point
- First aid arrangements
- Security arrangements
- Dealing with customers
- Work contacts
- Internal and external communications
- Tasks involved in the placement
- Methods and performance standards
- Sources of information, materials, supplies etc.
- Authority to act – limits
- Specific risks and precautions
- Supervision arrangements.
- Mandatory training as required by Torbay Council (classroom based and/or e-learning).

Each Agency Worker will be allocated to a permanent member of staff who will act as the Agency Worker's supervisor, provide guidance and deal with any questions the Agency Worker may have.

### 3.16 Training

**(Mandatory Requirement)** The Agency Provider shall be required to provide training and updates for their Agency Workers on commonly used software packages such as Microsoft Office, to include Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook. The Agency will be expected to meet the cost of this training if it is required. Please refer to section 3.15

above.

The Authority will ensure all Agency Workers adhere to the Council's mandatory e-learning training. Agency Workers will be reminded of the importance of compliance and risks to the organisation if Council training policy and procedure is not followed.

### **3.17 Absence and Holiday**

It is the Agency Provider's responsibility to have suitable controls in place to track an Agency Worker's leave entitlement and to ensure appropriate leave is taken in accordance with the Working Time Directive.

Agency Workers are required to book any request for leave through their Agency Provider. It will be the Agency Provider's responsibility to inform Torbay Council that the Agency Worker on placement has requested holiday. The Agency Provider will provide a replacement Agency Worker if required.

All absences must be reported to Torbay Council's hiring manager prior to the Agency Worker's usual start time. If an Agency Worker on assignment with Torbay Council is absent from work, it is the responsibility of the Agency Worker to notify their line manager, and for the Agency to advise the contract manager and offer a replacement if appropriate.

### **3.18 Performance Management**

The Agency Provider must conduct some form of on-the-job performance assessment of their Agency Worker, which can be completed in association with Torbay Council as part of a service review or individually via electronic communication. This will include assessment of the ability of the individual to carry out specific tasks required during the course of the placement. The Agency Provider will use this information to assess the suitability of Agency Worker for specific placements with Torbay Council. This evidence must be made available to Torbay Council

In the event that an Agency Worker placed with Torbay Council does not meet their requirements Torbay Council will immediately notify the Agency Provider. If this notification is made within eight hours of the start of a placement, Torbay Council will not pay for the hours worked by the Agency Worker for that day. Torbay Council will not invoke any of the Council's disciplinary procedures.

If required, the Agency Provider will arrange for a suitable replacement to take over the placement as soon as is practicable and in any event within twenty-four hours of the start of the original placement. Agencies will not levy any charges for the first day in these circumstances.

It is the Agency Providers responsibility to undertake any disciplinary action in line with their own policies and procedures. Torbay Council may be able to support this process.

### **3.19 Placement Terminated**

**(Mandatory Requirement)** The booking for the Agency Worker is with the Agency and not the Agency Worker, therefore if an Agency Worker swaps to a different Agency, the booking is automatically terminated with the original agency. Should the agency worker choose to be represented by an alternative agency who supplies to Torbay Council, within this Standing List Agreement, there will be no fee charged to the Council, in relation to

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introductory or cancellation fees.

If it is not possible to specify the duration of a placement at the booking stage (for example because it is to cover sick leave of uncertain duration) Torbay Council will give the Agency Provider as much notice as possible to terminate the placement. However, there may be occasions when it is not possible to give advance notice of termination of a placement. The Agency Provider will withdraw a temporary worker immediately if required.

**(Mandatory Requirement)** The Agency Worker will be responsible for all equipment issued which must be returned at the end of the placement. A charge to the Agency Provider will be made for any lost/damaged/unreturned equipment.

**(Mandatory Requirement)** When a placement is due to end, the Agency Worker must complete all planned work to a satisfactory level, in negotiation with their Manager and the Agency Provider. The Agency Worker will not be allowed to finish off or complete work after the placement has ended.

### **3.20 (Mandatory Requirement) Timesheets, Pay and Expenses**

Each Agency Worker must be provided with a weekly timesheet at the start of their placement or at the beginning of each calendar new week. They must also receive payslips detailing their gross and net pay, holiday entitlement and details of any deductions.

Should an Agency Worker identify any discrepancies with their pay or deductions the Agency Provider must resolve issues directly with Torbay Council, the contract manager and the Agency Worker within the week that the issues are raised so that if adjustments are required they occur the following week so as to cause minimum inconvenience to those involved.

Agency Workers cannot claim travelling expenses to get to and from their normal place of work. Torbay Council may agree with an Agency Worker that they will use their own transport in the course of working for the Authority (subject to appropriate insurance being in place). In such cases Torbay Council will pay an appropriate mileage allowance in line with the Torbay Council's Expenses policy.

In the unlikely event that an Agency Worker is asked to incur out of pocket expenses during the course of their placement then these must be reimbursed by the Agency Provider. Torbay Council will only reimburse the Agency in line with Torbay Council's Expenses Policy for any legitimate expenses incurred by the Agency Worker associated with the performance of their assigned duties on behalf of Torbay Council. Torbay Council will not pay administration costs for the payment of expenses.

Agency Workers cannot claim for any parking-related costs incurred whilst carrying out placements for Torbay Council; this includes fixed penalty fines, clamping costs and so on.

Successful Agencies awarded a place onto the Standing List will take appropriate steps to ensure that umbrella companies used by workers, are compliant and work within HMRC guidelines. These audit checks will be undertaken on first use and periodically checked with reference to pay slips issued. This information will be available to Torbay Council on request.

### **3.21 Health and Safety and Welfare**

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Health and Safety is a three-way responsibility between the Agency Provider, the Agency Worker and Torbay Council. The Agency Provider will ensure that they have conducted appropriate risk assessments and provide all necessary PPE. The Agency Worker will be required to wear all PPE provided to them by the Agency Provider or required to be worn by Torbay Council. Torbay Council will ensure that Agency Workers are only assigned in places of work where all relevant precautions are in place. Any changes in legislation will be adhered to by all parties.

Any Agency Worker who refuses to comply with health and safety guidelines and/or legislation when instructed by Torbay Council will be asked to leave. The Agency Provider will then be required to remove the Agency Worker from site and provide a replacement Agency Worker (if required).

Torbay Council is responsible for:

- Providing a place of work that is safe and free from unmitigated risk to health
- Providing safe equipment and materials
- Providing safe systems of work
- Providing adequate welfare facilities – toilets, washing and refreshment facilities, and accommodation for outdoor clothing.

The Agency Provider is responsible for ensuring that Agency Workers have the appropriate knowledge, skills and experience to carry out the work involved without risk to the health and safety of themselves or other people. This includes providing manual handling and COSHH training as required.

It is important that each Agency Workers is familiar with Torbay Council's safe working practices for the tasks involved. Torbay Council will work with the Agency to provide appropriate health and safety training to Agency Workers. This may involve jointly arranging induction-training sessions outside of normal working hours.

Where the Agency Workers is required to use a computer, the Agency Provider will arrange for the Agency Workers to have periodic eyesight checks and, if necessary, spectacles for computer use, in accordance with the Display Screen Equipment Regulations.

### **3.22 Torbay Council's Responsibilities**

Torbay Council will:

- Provide clear information as to the requirements for each placement
- Provide as much notice as is reasonably practicable when a placement is required. However there may be occasions when the Council has an immediate requirement and therefore notice will not be given
- Provide official orders for the placements (either individually or to cover a longer period)
- Make appropriate arrangements for the safety health and welfare of each Agency Worker
- Pay the sums due to the Agency Provider under the Contract in accordance with Torbay Council's payment terms
- Meet with the Agency Worker's representative as often as is required

### **3.23 (Mandatory Requirement) The Agency Provider's Responsibilities**

The Agency Provider will:

- Meet with Torbay Councils representatives as often as is required
- Ensure that the Agency's Staff allocated to the Agency Worker must not visit them on the office floor. Visits must be arranged off site
- Have sufficient Staff available in the Agency Provider's office to receive and respond to Torbay Council's bookings and other instructions throughout normal office hours (09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday)
- Provide Agency Workers to fulfil Torbay Councils requirements for placements covered by this Contract whenever required and often at short notice
- Ensure that the Torbay Councils requirements for each placement are fully understood, both by the Staff of the Agency Provider who arrange the placement, and by the Agency Workers appointed to work for the Authorities.
- Ensure that the Agency Workers provided have the skills and attributes required to perform the type of work specified safely and efficiently for each placement
- Ensure that Agency Workers provided are eligible to work in the United Kingdom in the type of work concerned
- As far as possible, ensure that the Agency Workers engaged on a particular placement is able to work for the duration of the placement (where specified)
- Ensure that adequate checks have been carried out to satisfy Torbay Council that Agency Workers are honest and trustworthy
- Ensure that the number of hours worked during each placement is accounted for and that Torbay Council is invoiced accurately
- Pay wages, National Insurance contributions, taxes and holiday pay as required under the law to, or in respect of, the Agency Workers involved via Umbrella Companies.
- Fulfil all other statutory requirements, including health and safety requirements, as the employer of the Agency Worker, save for the following:
  - Direct on-the-job supervision
  - A safe and healthy place of work
  - Safe equipment and materials for use at work, and
  - Safe systems of work.

### **3.24 (Mandatory Requirement) Pricing - Set Per-Hour Pay Rates**

Due to the market conditions of providing Social Care Agency Workers, it has been decided that set per-hour Pay Rates will be paid for each type of Social Worker provided. This set Pay Rate will be the same for every Agency Provider on the Social Worker Standing List. Please refer to Part 5 Lot 2 Pricing Schedule (for Lot 2 – Approved Social Worker Agency Providers) for further information.

It is a Mandatory requirement that Applicants agree to be paid these set Pay Rates, in co-operation with the Memorandum of Co-Operation (MoC).



## 4. Contract and Performance Review Requirements

### 4.1 Contract Management

The Agency Provider is expected to have the following Staff in place to assist with its contract management responsibilities:

3. Daily Point of Contact (Branch Consultant)
4. Account Manager (Branch Manager)
5. Contract Manager (Regional or Area Manager)

The details of these members of Staff must be provided. The Agency provider must be available to attend a monthly on-site visit if required.

The Agency Provider is expected to conduct effective contract management tasks throughout the terms of the Contract, which includes clearly demonstrating how it monitors its own performance and ensures that its Agency Workers are also satisfied with the service that they receive.

Torbay Council reserves the right to request full access to Agency Workers' personnel files for the purpose of safer recruitment audits and overall compliance with the terms of the Contract. Periodically throughout the Contract term and without notice the Torbay Council's authorised representative will visit the Agency Provider's offices and conduct spot audits on the Agency Worker's files currently on assignment with Torbay Council. The Agency Provider is therefore required to make their workers aware that their personnel file may be accessed by Torbay Council.

### 4.2 Corrective Action

Where it is evident that the Agency Provider is not performing to the agreed service levels, it will be raised in writing and the Agency Provider's duly authorised representative will be required to take action to rectify the situation.

The Agency Provider will be required to submit a written Corrective Action within five working days of the date of the original written notification. The Corrective Action Plan must detail all of the steps required of all of the parties involved to resolve the situation.

Where within two weeks the performance has not improved to an acceptable level as detailed in the Corrective Action Plan, a further written complaint will be submitted to the Agency Provider's duly authorised representative who will be required to submit a written response, including the action to be taken, within ten working days.

Where the performance still does not improve to an acceptable level within four weeks of the original written notification, a default notice will be issued. Where a default notice is served, the Agency Provider will be required to credit Torbay Council with a rebate totalling one per cent of the total of the next monthly consolidated invoice. The rebate will continue until the Agency Provider's performance is judged by the Contracting Authority to have returned to an acceptable level. In addition the Agency Provider will not be able to submit any potential candidates for any new positions until the Agency Provider's performance is judged by Torbay Council to have returned to an acceptable level.



## 4.3 Reports

The Agency Provider will be required to provide monthly data. This will include the following information:

### 4.3.1 List of Agency Workers on placement to include:

- Agency Worker's name
- Assignment details (job title, department, etc)
- Hiring manager's details
- Pay and bill rates
- ECAN number/FIMS reference number
- DBS disclosure (where applicable)
- Length of current assignment – start and anticipated end date
- Reason for use of Agency Worker
- Cumulative cost per assignment

This information will be required to be provided via an encryption platform such as Egress in Microsoft Excel format to the Human Resources Contract Manager, by the agreed date and in sufficient time to support quarterly review meetings. This will also ensure that Torbay Council can monitor the use of Agency Workers. Where possible the Agency Provider must be willing to capture and provide additional statistical data at any time, as and when required.

## 4.5 Complaints

The Agency Provider is required to provide formal procedures for dealing with complaints to include timescales for response and resolution. The Agency Provider must be aware that complaints may be forthcoming from Councillors, officers, members of the public, Agency Workers and its own Staff.

The Agency Provider must demonstrate the measures that it has in place to reduce complaints about the conduct and performance of both its Staff and Agency Workers. Any formal complaint must be acknowledged within twenty-four hours and those involved be made aware of the timescales involved to resolve the complaint, together with any right to appeal that may be in place. The timescales to resolve the complaint must be reasonable and timely.

The Agency will be expected to escalate to the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) any complaint regarding their agency worker where this is deemed appropriate. Torbay Council will assist with information and evidence where applicable, but it remains the responsibility of the Agency to pursue this action.

## 5. Staffing

### 5.1 Safer Recruitment (*Mandatory Requirement*)

To ensure the Service creates a safer recruitment culture for clients and staff, the following are mandatory requirements:

- At least one member of each interview panel must have undertaken safer recruitment training;
- The Provider must have effective procedures in place, that are regularly updated and communicated to staff;
- The Provider must set a code for acceptable standards of behaviour for all staff and ensure this is effectively communicated to staff;
- The Provider must take seriously all concerns that are raised;
- The Provider must, on an ongoing basis, increase awareness and commitment to safeguarding across its organisation.

## 6. Invoicing

The Agency Provider must send invoices and remittance advice in the format requested by Torbay Council, paper or electronic, to the duly authorised Torbay Council representative at the agreed frequency whether this is weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Each invoice must be a valid VAT invoice and must include:

- 6.1** The purchase order number/ECAN number;
- 6.2** Details of the hiring manager, either the person that placed the order or the person to whom the Agency Worker reports;
- 6.3** The total number of hours worked by the Agency Worker for both standard and overtime hours;
- 6.4** The dates to which this assignment relates to;
- 6.5** The agreed rate for each assignment;
- 6.6** Expenses (together with the duly authorised claim form);
- 6.7** VAT;
- 6.8** The total charge;
- 6.9** Copy time sheets must be supplied with each invoice if requested.

Payment will be made in accordance with Torbay Council's specific payment terms.

Any invoice received by Torbay Council that does not meet the terms outlined above will be automatically rejected and returned to the Agency Provider without payment. The Agency Provider will be expected to correct any and all errors and re-submit the invoice to Torbay Council. Torbay Council will record each instance of a query or dispute, the nature of the query or dispute and the time taken to resolve the query or dispute in order that it may better manage those instances to avoid recurrence.

## 7. Added Value

### 7.1 Further Services Offered

The Applicant will be expected to suggest as part of its response to the Evaluation Questions any additional products or services that they may be able to offer as part of this Contract or any other added value that their offer might be able to bring to the Authority. Applicants are expected to build any such offers into their submissions regardless of whether specific questions are asked along these lines or not.

### 7.2 Social Value, Sustainability, Environmental Considerations

The Authority is seeking a Provider who will add value to the Contract by providing additional community benefits which support the Council's ambitions for a prosperous and healthy Torbay, as identified in the Corporate Plan 2015-19:

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/policies/corporate/corporate-plan/>

Applicants should take into account the following key areas in formulating their response:

7.2.1 Jobs: Promote local skills and employment;

7.2.2 Growth: supporting growth of responsible regional business;

7.2.3 Social: Healthier, safer and more resilient communities;

7.2.4 Environment: protecting and improving our environment;

7.2.5 Innovation: promoting social innovation.

## 8 Scope and Nature of Possible Modifications or Options

- 8.1** Any relevant changes in legislation relating to recruitment practice;
- 8.2** Changes to agreed rates of pay;
- 8.3** Legislative changes to Social Work Practice;
- 8.4** Agency staff booking may become electronic – with future bookings made through the Council's 'My View' intranet system;
- 8.5** Secure emailing system is currently Egress Switch. If Applicants can offer the TLS facility, then providing a compatibility test is carried out satisfactorily, between the Council's I T Services and the Applicant's organisation, there may or may not be a future requirement to use Egress Switch – although this is required for the immediate future.

## 9 Awarding the Contract on Behalf of Other Contracting Authorities

**9.1** The Authority is not purchasing on behalf of other contracting authorities.