

<b>Peterborough Children’s Centres Award of Contracts</b>
<b>Cabinet Member for Children’s Services</b>
<b>March 2017</b>
<b>Deadline date: March 2017</b>

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children Services Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Corporate Director for People and Communities
Is this a Key Decision?	YES If yes has it been included on the Forward Plan : YES Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan : KEY/06MAR17/06
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO
Is this a project and if so has it been registered on Verto?	NO Verto number: N/A

### R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

The Cabinet Member is recommended to authorise the award of a 1 year contract with an optional 1 year extension to:

- 1) Barnardos, the Service Provider of Children’s Centres for the Central and East Locality from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 for the sum of £812 663, and the optional extension for an estimated value of £812 663 from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019; and
- 2) Spurgeons, the Service Provider of Children’s Centres for the South Locality from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 for the sum of £177 080, and the optional extension for an estimated value of £177 080 from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019; and
- 3) Spurgeons for the Service Provider of Children’s Centres for the North, West and Rural Locality from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 for the sum of £413 360, and the optional extension for an estimated value of £413 360 from 1 April 2018 t 31 March 2019.

## 1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

1.1 This report seeks the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services to authorise the award of contracts as follows:

- Barnardos, the Service Provider of Children’s Centres for the Central and East Locality from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 for the sum of £812 663, and the

optional extension for an estimated value of £812 663 from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 and;

- Spurgeons for the Service Provider of Children’s Centres for the South Locality from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 for the sum of £177 080, and the optional extension for an estimated value of £177 080 from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019; and
- Spurgeons for the Service Provider of Children’s Centres for the North, West and Rural Locality from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 for the sum of £413 360, and the optional extension for an estimated value of £413 360 from 1 April 2018 t 31 March 2019.

## 2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

2.1 This decision is proposed in accordance with the delegations for the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.3.8(a) of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph (e).

## 3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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## 4. DETAILS OF DECISION REQUIRED

4.1 Children’s Centres are part of the Government’s agenda to improve outcomes for children – providing a place where families with children under 5 years can access a range of services which includes: early learning services; parenting and family support including relationship support, outreach services and information and support for families; child and family health services; and adult learning and employment support.

4.2 The Government has demonstrated its commitment to children’s centres by legislating to give them a statutory basis. The Childcare Act 2006 imposed duties on local authorities to improve the well-being of young children in their area and reduce inequalities between them, and to make arrangements to secure that early childhood services are provided in an integrated way in order to improve access and maximise the benefits of those services to young children and their parents. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 goes further. It inserted new provisions into the Childcare Act 2006 so that the Act now defines Sure Start Children’s Centres in law. It places duties on local authorities in relation to establishing and running children’s centres.

4.3 There are 4 children’s centre hubs in Peterborough.

- South Locality – the children’s centre is located at Orton Malbourne, based in the Jigsaw centre in Orton Malbourne.
- North, West and Rural locality – the children’s centre is based in Paston, the Honeyhill Centre. Some outreach services continue to be delivered at the base at Watergall School, in Bretton.
- Central Locality – Children’s Centre hubs are located at First Steps Children’s Centre in Welland, with an Outreach operating at Fulbridge School, and a second hub is based in East, at Durham Road, with outreach services delivered from a base at Gladstone Primary School.

4.4 Existing contracts for the children’s centre delivery are due to expire on 31 March 2017. There are several elements to the existing contract which includes:

- South and North, West and Rural delivery – Spurgeons provide the core children's centre delivery, which includes early learning activities, family support including parenting, access to family health services and support with adult learning and employment to children under 5 years and their families. Spurgeons also provide some family support to families with children aged between 5 to 11 years, in the south and north of the city, which supports the early help agenda in Peterborough.
- Central delivery – Barnardos provide the core children's centre delivery, which includes early learning activities, family support including parenting, access to family health services and support with adult learning and employment to children under 5 years and their families. Barnardos also provide some family support to families with children aged between 5 to 11 years, in the central area of the city, which supports the early help agenda in Peterborough. Barnardos also provide return interviews for Peterborough children missing from home. This is provided to children missing from home on a city wide basis.

4.4 Peterborough City Council has an ambition to work collaboratively to commission children and young people's services between Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. The intent is to integrate and rationalise existing contracts and services to develop an integrated, consistent and equitable 0 – 19 service across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The scope of this work will include the services delivered as part of the healthy child programme, namely health visiting, Family Nurse Partnership, school nursing and includes the children's centres.

4.5 The development of the 0 – 19 service will involve the integration of a wide range of contracts across three different organisations. This will involve complex arrangements to fully integrate contracts and delivery, which will need time to plan and deliver. The children's centre services will be part of this overall 0 – 19 service offer, and it is therefore necessary to find an interim solution to continue to deliver the current children's centre services whilst the new plans are developed and delivered. It is therefore proposed to direct award contracts to the existing service providers, whilst plans for the 0 – 19 services are developed. Due to the complex arrangements associated with the future delivery of the overall 0 – 19 service offer, it is prudent to direct award these contracts to the service providers for a period of one year, with the option to extend for a further year, whilst the procurement is underway.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 Peterborough City Council has been consulting with Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, on the plans to develop a 0 – 19 service, which has included plans around the current contractual arrangements.

5.2 The proposal to extend the current contracts will not result in any changes to the current delivery. However, there will be consultation undertaken on any changes resulting from the development of the 0 – 19 services across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

6.1 The children's centre services will continue to be delivered in Peterborough based on the current contractual arrangement, whilst the procurement and development of the 0 – 19 service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire is progressed.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 7.1 To maintain the delivery of the children's centre services, whilst plans are developed and put in place to deliver a 0 – 19 service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 To do nothing – the children's centres are a statutory provision, which provides a range of services to children under 5 years and their families. Therefore arrangements need to be in place to continue delivery of services
- 8.2 To complete a competitive tendering exercise to seek children's centre providers – this was rejected on the basis that there are plans being underway to develop a 0 – 19 service, which will include procurement options. To complete a competitive tendering exercise on one element of the 0 – 19 provision, would not be effective use of resources.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### *9.1 Legal Implications*

- 9.1.1 The Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 makes provision about the powers of local authorities to enter into contracts. Every statutory provision conferring or imposing a function on a local authority confers power on the local authority to enter into a contract with another person for the provision or making available of assets or services, or both, for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the local authority.
- 9.1.2 *The Childcare Act 2006 imposes a duty on local authorities to improve the well-being of young children in their area, reduce inequalities between them and to make arrangements to secure that early childhood services are provided in an integrated way in order to improve access and maximise the benefits of those services to young children and their parents. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 inserted new provisions into the Childcare Act 2006, which places a duty on local authorities in relation to establishing and running children's centres and ensuring there are sufficient children's centres, so far as reasonably practicable, to meet local need.*
- 9.1.3 In accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, the long term provision of these services beyond 2018/19 will be achieved via a procurement between three organisations, which will achieve greater efficiencies, providing better delivery of these statutory services. The re-procurement of these services has been considered in the interim period. Any interim procurement would be a sizable and complex task. The delivery of these statutory services will be directly awarded to the current providers for the interim period whilst the procurement of these services is underway.

### *9.2 Equalities implications*

- 9.2.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this decision.

## **10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED**

- 10.1 None.

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

- 11.1 The Childcare Act 2006.