

Peterborough Children's Centres Award of Contracts
Councillor Cabinet Member for Children's Services
October 2019
Deadline date: 31 October 2020

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor Lynn Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Corporate Director for People and Communities
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes Forward Plan Reference Number: KEY/14OCT19/02
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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member is recommended to authorise the award of a 6 month contract to:

- 1) Barnardos, the Service Provider of children's centres for the Central and East Locality from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020 for a value of £388 581.50
- 2) Spurgeons, the Service Provider of Children's Centres for the South Locality from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020 for the value of £88 540
- 3) Spurgeons, the Service Provider of Children's Centres, for the North, West and Rural Locality from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020 for the value of £214 180

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 2020 to 30 September 2020 for the sum of £388, 581.50
- Spurgeons for the Service Provider of Children's Centres for the South Locality from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020 for the sum of £88 540
- Spurgeons for the Service Provider of Children's Centres for the North, West and Rural Locality from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020 for the sum of £214 180

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 2.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 and 3.4.8 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with paragraph (e) of their portfolio.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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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; 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 in the locality including 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 services are due to expire on 31 March 2020. South and North, West and Rural centres are delivered by Spurgeons and Barnardos deliver the services in the Central area of the city. They each 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. Both organisations also provide some family support to families with children aged between 5 to 11 years, which supports the early help agenda in Peterborough.
- 4.5 The children centre contracts have been awarded directly since 2017, as work was being undertaken to model an integrated 0 – 19 service, across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, involving both Local Authorities, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT) and

Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS). Procurement of the children's centre services was delayed until such a time that the impact of this work was understood.

4.6 Since 2017, both health providers have worked with the Local Authorities to bring together the Healthy Child Programme (HCP), and are progressing with formalising arrangements to deliver an integrated HCP model of delivery across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. During this time, work has also commenced on the Best Start in Life project. The work has led to the development of a strategy focusing on families and children pre birth to 5 years. The Strategy was presented to Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in September 2019. This document set out the key outcomes for young children and their families in Peterborough.

4.7 It is now an appropriate time for the children's centre services to be recommissioned and to go out to tender. The specification for the children's centre services will be based on the outcomes of the Best Start in Life Strategy, as well as meeting all statutory obligations. A timetable has been drawn up for the children's centre procurement, and the mobilisation of a new contract will be completed by 30 September 2020. The provisional headline timetable is detailed below:

Pre-tender period	August to December 2019
Tender Stage	December 2019 to April 2020
Post Tender and Mobilisation	May to September 2020

4.8 In order to ensure the continuation of the children's centre service whilst the tender process is undertaken, new contracts need to be directly awarded to the current providers until 30 September 2020.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The Children's Centre providers have been consulted with in terms of continuing the current arrangements until 30 September 2020.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

6.1 The direct award of the contracts from the children's centres will ensure the continuation of the services, whilst the tender process is completed.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

7.1 This decision will enable services to continue whilst a tender for services is completed.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 To do nothing – this was rejected as the contracts in place would end and would not enable services to continue until the completion of the procurement

9. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

9.1 The long term provision of these services beyond 2020 shall be achieved by Peterborough City Council working collaboratively to commission children and young people's services with Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, which will achieve greater efficiencies and provide better delivery of

these statutory services. The re-procurement of these services has been considered in the interim period, however 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 and conducted in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015

Financial Implications

- 9.2 As detailed in paragraph 1.1, the contract sums will be based on 2019/20 contract values, on a pro rata basis for the six months period detailed.

Equalities implications

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

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.4 There are no implications in relation to the carbon impact assessment.

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

None