

## **APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A S76 AGREEMENT WITH THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

Councillor Lynne Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University

**Deadline date: March 2021**

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor Lynn Ayres, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, Skills and the University Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director for People and Communities
Is this a Key Decision?	YES Has this been included in the forward plan: Yes KEY/15FEB21/01
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?	N/A

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

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

1. Authorise the Council to enter into a Section 76 Agreement under the National Health Service Act 2006 with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group relating to the Speech and Language Therapy Services (SALT) across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Council shall make an annual payment of £250,000 for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, and thereafter annually until 31 March 2024.

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with paragraph (b) of their portfolio.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services for the Council to enter a Section 76 agreement with NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CPCCG) to deliver an integrated SALT service to children and young people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The annual payment shall be £250,000.
- 1.3 The agreement will seek to cover the initial period from 1st April 2021 to March 2022, and annually thereafter until 31 March 2024, which would be reviewed annually.

## 2. 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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## 3. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 In 2016/17 a service review was undertaken for the Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) provision across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. This was in response to increasing demand for services to children and young people, and subsequent long waiting times for families to access the services.
- 3.2 As a result of the review, the SALT service was redesigned, which included developing appropriate pathways to services and placing a focus on early intervention. The redesign also focused on a single delivery model across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, bringing together a consistent service delivery model for the two neighbouring authorities. This was, in part achieved through jointly commissioning the Speech and Language Service between Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. The service is based on the “Balanced Model”, supporting the delivery of services at a universal, targeted and specialist level. It is based on the principle of early identification, identifying any issues early and enabling the right support to prevent escalation to more specialist services, whilst ensuring that those children and young people who do need a specialist service receive appropriate assessment and support.
- 3.3 This approach is wholly consistent with the current direction of travel, in terms of aiming to deliver an integrated models of support for children, young people and families across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, focusing on early identification and prevention that builds resilience in families and communities. This approach is also in line with the aim to create models of delivery that change the fragmented and complex commissioning arrangements within public services, as well as increasing efficiencies, reducing duplication and responding to the resource pressures by looking to do things differently and more effectively.
- 3.4 The service was launched early in 2018, and has seen some positive outcomes. The service introduced drop in clinics for preschool children across the city to identify issues early. Training is offered to preschool settings, primary and secondary schools to enable these settings to support their children and young people. To date feedback from the settings and has been positive. Schools have also been allocated a link therapist who works with the school in developing strategies to support children and young people in their school, who may have additional speech, communication and language needs.
- 3.5 In view of COVID 19 there have been some changes in service delivery since March 2020 and will continue to see delivery adapted to COVID – 19 guidance. The service continues to deliver support to children and families as follows:
- 3.5.1. The service is continues to deliver a virtual service. Face to face is an exception and where clinically it is required. The service has prioritised a number of areas; Dysphagia work, delivery to Education Health Care Plans and Early Years complex needs, particularly where there is no functional communication.
- 3.5.2. The service is engaging remotely with mainstream schools and offering both intervention and training, which is reviewed regularly and depends on further demands made on the service.

- 3.5 The funding allocated to the Clinical Commissioning Group [lead commissioner] via a Section 76 arrangement will be a £250,000.00 annual contribution from Peterborough City Council. This funding is from the Dedicated Schools Grant [high need block], and supports the whole system of support for speech, language and communication needs, including those areas of delivery detailed above. Approval for this arrangement is being requested until 31 March 2024.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The review and redesign of this service included county wide consultation with a variety of key stakeholders and partners. Stakeholders were invited to participate in surveys and stakeholder events. Stakeholders included:

- Secondary, primary and special schools
- All Early Years Settings
- Children's Centres
- Employees at Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council including the Special Education Needs and Early Years practitioners
- Employees of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust and Cambridgeshire Community Services
- Parents
- Representatives of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group
- Speech and Language therapists from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

- 4.2 The Service providers continue to proactively seek feedback on their service provision, to ensure that the services, including the drop in clinics and training programme meets the needs of children, young people and their families are being met.

#### **5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

- 5.1 Funding from the Council will support the continued integrated provision of SALT services for children, young people and their families through joint commissioning arrangements. Over the last year the waiting lists for the service has now reduced, and the introduction of the drop in clinics, training and support in schools is receiving positive feedback. The service will continue to be monitored to address the longer term impact of changes.

#### **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 The Section 76 agreement will enable the delivery of an integrated and consistent Speech and Language Therapy for children, thereby improving outcomes for children and young people.

#### **7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 To do nothing – this has been rejected as the joint agreement between Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG has led to improved outcomes as detailed in section 3.4.

#### **8. IMPLICATIONS**

##### **8.1 Legal Implications**

Section 76 of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) and the National Health Service (Conditions relating to Payments by Local Authorities to NHS Bodies) Directions 2013 permit payments to be made by a local authority to a clinical commissioning group. This is for expenditure incurred or to be incurred in

connection with the performance of prescribed functions which includes the services set out in this report.

## **8.2 Financial Implications**

Funding has been allocated for this service in 2021/22 and will be reviewed annually.

## **8.3 Equalities implications**

This service is for children and young people with speech, language or communication difficulties. Without these skills, a child will not be able to reach their full potential. Therefore, provision of SALT services helps reduce inequalities for those children in need of support.

## **8.4 Carbon Impact Implications**

Following completion of the Carbon Impact Assessment, there have been no specific implications identified

## **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 Approval to enter a Section 76 agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group - AUG17/CMDN/33

11.2 Decision to enter into a Section 76 Agreement for the delivery of integrated Speech and Language Therapy Services FEB18/CMDN/91