

<b>CABINET</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 5</b>
<b>11 MARCH 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Stephen Taylor, Executive Director: Adult Social Care and Commissioning	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Ray Bisby Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
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**CONTRACTS FOR POST 16 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SERVICES**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Commissioning	<b>Deadline date:</b> 11 March 2024
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet authorise the Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Commissioning to award and enter into contracts for placements relating to the provision of Post 16 Alternative Education services and subsequent spend from 1 April 2024.</p>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is Executive Director of Adult Social Care submitted to seek approval for the use of the Post 16 Alternative Education Framework and subsequent spend.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the use and subsequent spend of the Post 16 Alternative Education Framework.

The report also seeks to delegate approval to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Commissioning to extend award call of contracts from the Framework.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.8. To determine policies or strategies that will have a significant impact on two or more wards.

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan? <b>No</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	<b>n/a</b>
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**4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

4.1 In September 2020, Children's Commissioning (then joint across Peterborough City Council & Cambridgeshire County Council) conducted a review and collated a subsequent report in relation to Post 16 provision across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Papworth Trust was also commissioned by the Executive Director of People & Communities to produce an independent review and report with recommendations in August 2021.

This led to a proposal, approved by the Joint Commissioning Board in August 2022, for the development of a Post 16 Framework that would provide young people with a list of alternative education providers that are quality assured with an agreed pricing structure.

Cambridgeshire County Council procured a pseudo dynamic purchasing system framework as the lead commissioner and the council was named as a user of the framework to call-off contracts from service providers under the framework. The procurement was undertaken in accordance with the light touch regime under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Bids from providers were invited from July 2023 and the tender closed in September 2023; 15 providers submitted bids to join the framework. Evaluation and moderation took place in October 2023.

The Evaluation and Moderation Panel included representatives from both PCC and CCC Children's Commissioning Services, Preparing for Adulthood Lead in CCC and a young person's representative from PCC.

The panel agreed to award 10 contracts; award letters were sent out by CCC Procurement in December 2023. The framework is due to go live in March 2024 for 5 years with an option to extend for a further two periods of 24 months and a further period of 12 months. As Cambridgeshire County Council was the Lead Commissioner, the necessary approvals were sought and granted from CCC's Children and Young People's Committee in June 2023; this included approving the tender, alongside subsequent call offs and award. In order for PCC to call off the framework, approval is required from Cabinet.

## **5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

### **5.1 1. The Economy and Inclusive Growth**

The Post 16 Framework will provide opportunities for young people 16-25 with additional needs to have access to a range of opportunities to increase their independence and have a greater role in society as they develop through their education.

Carbon Impact Assessment: The post 16 alternative education is already commissioned. The proposal is to put a framework around the provision to monitor and improve quality and provide a clear pricing structure and to provide more choice for the 16-25 cohort with complex needs. It is, therefore, anticipated that the project will have a neutral impact.

### **2. Our Places & Communities**

The development of the Post 16 Framework will provide more opportunities for young people aged between 16 & 25 to improve their employability; thereby increasing their wellbeing and sense of self-worth.

### **3. Prevention, Independence & Resilience**

By supporting young people with the most complex needs who are not able to access mainstream colleges, the Post 16 Framework helps them to remain in their local communities; increasing their resilience and helping them towards a more independent lifestyle.

### **4. Sustainable Future City Council**

By providing further choice and building good relationships with independent and third sector providers the Post 16 Framework will help encourage new providers to provide a quality and value for money Post 16 offer within Peterborough.

## 6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation has taken place with Family Voice in May 2023 around the implementation of the Post 16 Framework, and consultations have taken place with the Access Champions who represent the voice of young people around the implementation of the Post 16 Alternative Education Framework in June 2023. In both cases, the groups welcomed the process as it will widen options for young people and ensure a quality assured value for money education experience for those with the most complex needs.

6.2 We would look to consult with our schools and colleges once the framework is up and running to ensure the framework is used to its full capacity.

Children's Commissioning will also look to consult with our colleagues in Adult Commissioning to form a link with the Adult Day Care Framework which is also being developed.

6.3 *Has this recommendation been considered by the below? If not, please provide reasoning.*

This paper went to Cabinet Policy Forum on the 26 February 2024 and Corporate Leadership Team on the 20 February 2024.

*Please also consider whether the recommendation should also be considered by the following:*

- *Financial Sustainability Working Group (FSWG)*
- *Group Leaders' Meeting*
- *All Party Policy (APP)*

As the recommendation is not contentious it was not deemed necessary to share with these groups.

## 7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

7.1 To improve and widen the opportunities for the 16-25 age group in Further Education; this will result in better outcomes for young people with special educational needs and disabilities in terms of employment opportunities, academic attainment and independent living.

## 8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The reason for the recommendation is so that PCC can use the Framework which will support the aim below:

PCC had a local area inspection under the SEND Local Area inspection framework in 2019. As a result, 5 areas of weakness were identified; these were reviewed in a Local Area Revisit in January 2022. The revisit found 4 areas of weakness had made progress, however Weakness 5 was found to have made insufficient progress:

***'The provision for young people aged 18-25 is not sufficiently developed to make sure that young adults have the full range of opportunities and support that they need as they move through into adulthood.'***

This resulted in an Accelerated Action Plan being requested by the Department for Education, sighting how the Council would rapidly address the weaknesses, this included a commitment to developing a robust framework of post 16 provision, co-produced with children and young people and broadening the range of opportunities available to children and young people.

## 9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The alternative to commissioning Post 16 Alternative Education through a Post 16 Framework would be to continue with current arrangements; this would include 'spot purchasing' on a case-by-case basis. This limits the opportunities for young people in terms of a choice of provision. Spot purchasing does not afford the same level of due diligence as providers are not subject to

the same quality assurance processes as are required to join a framework. In addition, spot purchasing does not provide a consistent pricing arrangement, whereas the Framework has a built-in pricing structure with arrangements for fee changes built into the specification; this supports PCC in financial forecasts and ensures value for money.

## 10. IMPLICATIONS

### Financial Implications

- 10.1 PCC has a current commitment of £428,339 per annum for 17 learners accessing post 16 alternative provision across 4 providers via a Spot Purchase arrangement. The introduction of the Framework will increase the choice of Post 16 provision and therefore could lead to more young people choosing this option who may not be accessing education at the moment. However, a clear pricing schedule will ensure that PCC are able to more accurately forecast. The current spot purchase arrangements will move over to the Post 16 Framework which will help Children's Commissioning to negotiate a more consistent costing arrangement. The Framework is not a new spend as the service is currently using providers under a spot purchasing arrangement.

### Legal Implications

- 10.2 The procurement by Cambridgeshire County Council was undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Local Authorities have duties under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure there is a sufficiency of school places available to meet the needs of all children and young people living within the authority area, or for whom they have responsibilities. This includes having regard to the need to secure provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and to keep these arrangements under review in line with section 315 of the 1996 Act.

### Equalities Implications

- 10.3 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out when the Post 16 Framework was formulated jointly with Cambridgeshire County Council. Children's Commissioning will undertake an Equality Impact Assessment specifically related to Peterborough City Council

## 11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

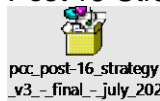
- 11.1 SEND Sufficiency Statement 2021-2024



CCC CYP Committee June 2023



Post 16 Strategic Plan August 2023



## 12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 *None.*