

# Education, Children and Families Committee

10:00 am, Tuesday, 11 October 2016

## Systemic Support Services: Extension of Additional Support for Learning Contracts

Item number 8.2

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

### Executive Summary

The Finance and Resources Committee on 18 August 2016 agreed that detailed contract planning reports are first sent to the relevant Executive Committee before referral to the Finance and Resources Committee seeking approval.

The purpose of this report is to outline progress in the strategic priorities for Additional Support for Learning (ASL) and to update Committee on the actions necessary to progress the ASL procurement plan.

This report includes proposals for a waiver of Contract Standing Orders (CSO) to align a number of smaller existing contracts to enable a single strategic procurement framework to be put into operation. Specifically, it is recommended that extensions be approved by the Finance and Resources Committee, up to 31 March 2018, for the Additional Support for Learning contracts that are currently in place with Children 1st, My Adventure and the Canongate Youth Project.

### Links

Coalition Pledges

[P1](#)

Council Priorities

[CP1, CP2, CP3](#)

Single Outcome Agreement

[SO3](#)

## Systemic Support Services: Extension of Additional Support for Learning Contracts

### 1. Recommendations

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It is recommended that the Education, Children and Families Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the contents of the report;
- 1.2 Refers this report to the Finance and Resources Committee for:
  - 1.2.1 Approval of the extension of both Children 1st contracts to the value of £67,866 for continuing services to children, families and schools for a six month period from 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018;
  - 1.2.2 Approval of the extension of Canongate Youth Project Contract to the value of £40,000 per annum for continuing services to children, families and schools for a 12 month period from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018;
  - 1.2.3 Approval of the extension of the My Adventure Contract to the value of £128,089 for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2018. To support the delivery of curricular activities to vulnerable learners at secondary schools in East Edinburgh.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The Council's Vision for Schools was approved by the Education, Children and Families Committee on 8 October 2013 and updated in March 2015.
- 2.2 The vision for schools reflects a commitment to schools that are effective in meeting the diverse needs of their communities. The vision recognises that where additional support is required it is most effective when it is built on a strong foundation of universal provision. The report set out a three phase process.
- 2.3 Phase 1 commenced in 2010/11 with a focus upon strengthening universal provision in our schools, which remains a key element of our improvement strategy as we move forward.
- 2.4 Phase 2 was directed to integrating our approach to Additional Support Needs within a wider approach to supporting children in need, as part of our approach to Getting It Right for Every Child. This included the introduction of a single child's plan. In parallel with this, we are streamlining access to services to enable timely and progressive support, high quality and equitable approaches and best use of resources. Very good progress has been achieved and as reported to Education, Children and Families Committee in December 2015.

- 2.5 In Phase 3, this is continuing with the strengthening of collaborative networks of support within and around schools and school clusters. From August 2015, ASL cluster teams have been established. These changes will enable a new collaborative approach to respond to need in a local context closely linked to school improvement processes.
- 2.6 As previously reported to the Education, Children and Families Committee in 2013 and 2015, the redesign of support for social, emotional and behaviour support has been a key focus in each phase of the strategy.
- 2.7 As reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on 17 March 2016 partnership working with Barnardo's and Children 1st has been instrumental in the successful redesign of provision which has greatly strengthened support for learners in early years and primary schools. More recently the focus has progressed to secondary schools and the support services provided by the Canongate Youth Project and My Adventure.
- 2.8 Approval has already been granted for a waiver to extend the contract with Barnardo's which was approved on 17 March 2016 by Finance and Resources Committee and will cease 31 March 2018. This brought the review of the Barnardo's contract into line with the timescale for the redesign of provision for social, emotional and behaviour support needs and to enable a co-production process to be completed.
- 2.9 Commercial and Procurement Services (CPS) have advised that since the introduction of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, procurement of health and social care contracts require to be openly and transparently advertised when the current contracts expire. In order to allow the various contract end dates to align, contract extensions are required. At the Finance and Resources Committee on 18 August 2016, a report was presented by CPS on the Contract and Waiver Management. CPS confirmed that the use of the waiver process should be only used where absolutely necessary to ensure continued service delivery until the new services can be procured.
- 2.10 Accordingly, we propose as we conclude the redesign process to establish a single strategic procurement framework to incorporate all of the support provision required for children and young people with additional support needs aged 0-18 years. This requires all of the relevant contracts to be aligned with the timetable for co-production and procurement to be completed by March 2018, as approved by the Finance and Resources Committee.
- 2.11 Bringing all the contracts in line will enable the Council to move to the next stage of its strategy to complete the final phase in the redesign of additional support needs services for social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. This will inform the design of a best value service specification for additional support for learning services in the medium term to address the Council's key priorities for children and families.

### 3. Main report

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#### **Children 1st Contracts**

- 3.1 The current total value for these contracts is £135,733 per annum for ongoing services to families of vulnerable children with additional support needs. The contract consists of 2 elements which have been revised to ensure the Council meets the key priorities for children and families.
- 3.2 The original befriending element of the contract was revised to provide systemic support to families with pre-school children in need.
- 3.3 The other element of the contract originally provided support to vulnerable children in the South of the City has been revised to provide this support Citywide.
- 3.4 Both these services will be realigned and will be delivered via the future Additional Support for Learning Framework.
- 3.5 This contract requires an extension of £67,866 to cover the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018 if waiver approved.

#### **Canongate Youth Project Contract**

- 3.6 Canongate Youth Project provides in-school and community based support and learning opportunities for young people at risk of school exclusion and poor attendance in South Edinburgh. This contract is due to end on 31 March 2017 and would require an extension of £40,000 until 31 March 2018.

#### **My Adventure**

- 3.7 My Adventure provides a range of educational programmes and qualifications for young people at risk of school exclusion and poor attendance. My Adventure is the trading subsidiary of the Muirhouse Youth Development Group which provides a range of educational programmes and qualifications for young people at risk of school exclusion and poor attendance. It provides a locality based service in collaboration with Leith Academy, Drummond Community High School, Holyrood High School, Portobello High School and Castlebrae Community High School.

The current value of this contract is £82,959 per annum. The current contract is approved to 31 December 2016 for £37,859 in this financial year. To extend the contract to 31 March 2018 requires approval of a further £45,100 in 2016/17 and £82,959 in 2017/18, a total of £128,059.

### 4.

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#### **Redesign of Provision**

- 4.1 Through collaborative working with a range of providers we have established a more effective approach to supporting learners in mainstream schools. This has led to a sustainable reduction in the demand for special school placements for learners with social, emotional and behavioural support needs in both primary and secondary schools.

- 4.2 It is proposed that collaborative working to support inclusion, improved attainment and better outcomes for vulnerable young people will be a key element of our strategy. Currently all the contracts have different finishing dates. In order to enable the best value outcome, it is proposed to include all of the above within a single programme, allowing a comprehensive review, consultation with all stakeholders and service specification development to be undertaken.
- 4.3 Bringing all the contracts in line will enable the Council to move to the next stage of its strategy to complete the final phase in the redesign of additional support needs services for social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. This will inform the design of a best value service specification for additional support for learning services in the medium term to address the Council's key priorities for children and families.
- 4.4 The planning process will consider all relevant statutory requirements including recent changes in procurement legislation. The services provided by the four individual contracts will be monitored over the period of contract extension to determine the terms which will inform the new contract requirements within the Additional Support for Learning Framework.

## 5. Measures of success

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- 5.1 Continuity of services to support vulnerable children and their families until the Council has undertaken a review of services and a co-production process to ensure that the service design is fit for purpose within the overall service provision and priorities for vulnerable children and families.
- 5.2 A new service specification is agreed and new contracted arrangements are in place by 1 April 2018.

## 6. Financial impact

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- 6.1 The costs for the extension of these 3 contracts are set out in the table below:

	2016/17	2017/18	Total
Children 1st		£67,866	£67,866
Canongate Youth Project		£40,000	£40,000
My Adventure	£45,100	£82,959	£128,059
	£45,100	£190,825	£235,925

## 7. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

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- 7.1 The services provided under these contracts are responding to the needs to particularly vulnerable children in need and their families. The loss of these services

will impact on vulnerable children and young people and would lead to further demand on other services.

- 7.2 Council Standing Orders require competition for values; however, best value would be obtained by providing time for a complete redesign and the coproduction process to be established. Extension of these contracts will allow adequate time for the tender process of the new Additional Support for Learning Framework to be concluded.

## **8. Equalities impact**

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- 8.1 The procurement of these services will have a positive impact on Equalities and Human Rights and will support the Council to meet its duty of care and advance equality of opportunity. The final procurement of the Additional Support for Learning Framework will be subject to an ongoing and full equality impact assessment

## **9. Sustainability impact**

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- 9.1 There are no adverse environmental outcomes arising from this report.

## **10. Consultation and engagement**

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- 10.1 Consultation and engagement with stakeholders as part of the coproduction process commenced in July 2016 and will continue up to the end of this year.
- 10.2 Surveys will be issued to key stakeholders and engagement will take place with existing service providers to inform future service provision.

## **11. Background reading/external references**

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- 11.1 [Additional Support Needs Planning and Performance Update 2015, report to Education, Children and Families Committee, 8 December 2016](#)
- 11.2 [Edinburgh Young Carers Contract, report to Finance and Resources Committee, 17 March 2016](#)
- 11.3 [Extension of Children's 1st Contract, report to Finance and Resources Committee, 17 March 2016](#)
- 11.4 [Contract and Waiver Management: Update, report to Finance and Resources Committee, 18 August 2016](#)

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## 12. Links

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<b>Coalition Pledges</b>	P1 Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care
<b>Council Priorities</b>	CP1 Children and young people fulfil their potential CP2 Improved health and wellbeing: reduced inequalities CP3 Right care, right place, right time
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	SO3. Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
<b>Appendices</b>	None