

Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Thursday, 26 November 2015

Award of Contract for Additional Support for Childcare Providers

Item number	7.22
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report seeks approval to award a contract for one year.

Links

Coalition pledges	P1
Council outcomes	CO1 – CO4 and CO6
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3

Award of Contract for Additional Support for Childcare Providers

Recommendations

To agree:

- 1.1 The award of the contract to Capability Scotland to continue delivery of Edinburgh Childcare 4 All (EC4All) for a one year period to 31 March 2017.

Background

- 2.1 The waiver of Council Contract Standing Orders is permitted where the circumstances of the proposed contract are covered by legislative exemptions, including where the nature of the market for the services to be provided has been investigated and is demonstrated to be such that a departure from the requirement of Standing Orders is justifiable in accordance with EU law and principles, for example when for technical reasons the contract may only be awarded to a particular provider or it is in the Council's best interests to do so. It is on this basis approval is sought to award this contract.
- 2.2 In general terms Council Standing Orders indicate Committee approval should be sought in circumstances where it is proposed to change the status of a current contract, in this case a change from grant to contracted arrangements.
- 2.3 Children and Families currently holds a Service Level Agreement with Capability Scotland to deliver a service known as Edinburgh Childcare 4 All (E4ALL). The SLA ends 31 March 2016.
- 2.4 EC4ALL allocate Inclusion grants to childcare providers who are assessed as requiring additional staff to support a child or young person's inclusion in their setting. Funding is also used for staff training and to purchase resources to enable the child or young person to participate more fully.
- 2.5 The service also uses an increasing capacity reducing dependency model which supports childcare providers to sustain a child's or young person's place in the setting without the need for long term adult intervention. This means that funding can be used to support more children and young people with disabilities in a greater number of mainstream childcare settings.

Main report

Waiver of Standing Orders

- 3.1 To allow time for a co-production approach for redesign of the current service model Children and Families are seeking to provide stability in delivery by directly awarding a contract for a year, maintaining the current model with Capability Scotland.
- 3.2 Future model will seek to continue to support the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities in mainstream childcare settings and be able to respond to ongoing demands for this service whilst delivering best value for the City of Edinburgh Council
- 3.3 The views of stakeholders will be important in shaping a future service which will support parent/carer's accessibility to mainstream childcare for children and young people with disabilities

Measures of success

- 4.1 That continuity of service delivery is maintained while co-production approach is implemented.
- 4.2 A new Service Specification is agreed and new contracted arrangements in place by 1 April 2017

Financial impact

- 5.1 The budget for 16/17 is £200,169.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Should the waiver not be agreed there is a risk that a number of vulnerable children and young people could lose their service in an unplanned manner and lead to reputational damage to the Council
- 6.2 There is a risk that best value is not being demonstrated in line with CSO's that require all services valued above £25,000 to be competitively tendered.
- 6.3 There is a risk in approving the waiver as the value of the contract is in the scope of European Regulations (by virtue of being worth in excess of the threshold) and therefore would be a breach of the conditions. However, this is a Part B service for provision of social services which do not require to meet the full rigours of the Regulations. If approved, the award will be published on the European Journal.
- 6.4 The risk of challenge by an alternative provider is very low given the nature of the service provided and the short length of the contract

Equalities impact

- 7.1 Ongoing monitoring of this service shows that children and young people with disabilities are being supported in mainstream childcare settings in a meaningful and long term way.
- 7.2 Successful inclusion of children and young people in mainstream childcare settings has resulted in parents being able to continue in work, training and education.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The duties of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 have been considered in respect of this report. Implementation of the redesign does not contradict our duties as a public body under this legislation.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Report recommendations have been discussed with and agreed Education, Children and Families Committee.

Gillian Tee

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Links

Coalition pledges	P1 - Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care
Council outcomes	C01 - Our children have the best start in life, are able to make and sustain relationships and are ready to succeed CO2 Our children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens making a positive contribution to their communities CO3 Our children and young people at risk, or with a disability, have improved life chances C04 Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy CO6 Our children's and young people's outcomes are not undermined by poverty and inequality
Single Outcome Agreement	SO3 Edinburgh's children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential
Appendices	