

Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Thursday, 17 March 2016

Edinburgh Young Carers Contract

Item number	7.20
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive Summary

This report is to request approval for a 12 month contract extension with Edinburgh Young Carers and to waive the Council's Contract Standing Orders normal tendering requirements. This will enable the Council to undertake a review of services and a coproduction process to design a new service specification.

Links

Coalition pledges	P1
Council priorities	CO1-CO6
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2, SO3

Edinburgh Young Carers Contract

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Resource Committee waive the Council's Contract Standing Orders normal tendering requirements and approve the 12 month contract extension to the Edinburgh Young Carers Contract for a total value of £75,000 for ongoing services to support young carers for a 12 month period from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

2. Background

- 2.1 Edinburgh Young Carers Project (EYCP) have provided a range of support, services and activities designed to improve the lives of young carers (children and young people aged 5 to 20 years who care for someone else at home) for many years.
- 2.2 EYCP have been working on raising further awareness of young carer's through campaigning and their Schools Awareness Raising Project, which has identified more young carers than was previously known.
- 2.3 The funding for this service comes from a wide range of trusts, organisations and individuals such as City of Edinburgh Council, NHS Lothian and BBC Children in Need.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The Council wishes to secure services that will specifically support young people in a caring role. A contract with Edinburgh Young Carers has been in place for a number of years however there have been a number of policy and legislative developments that will need to be taken into account.
- 3.2 The Joint Carers Strategy for Edinburgh 2014-17 highlighted six priorities and it is intended that any commissioned service would deliver against these priorities.
- 3.3 It is not completely clear at this stage how further requirements around supporting young carers will impact the Council as a result of the [Carers \(Scotland\) Bill](#) (which has just completed Stage 3 of the legislative process in the Scottish Parliament with duties expected to be implemented from April 2017).
- 3.4 The main elements of a new specification will be identified using a coproduction approach. Key stakeholders in this will include; young carers, their families, staff

involved in identification, assessments and referrals as well as voluntary organisations delivering services to children in need.

- 3.5 There are other organisations delivering services to young carers in the city albeit at a local level. One organisation is funded through a grant arrangement, others with funding from elsewhere.
- 3.6 The Young Carers Action Group is a forum which brings these service providers together with colleagues from the Council and NHS to develop thinking and ensure a coordinated approach to implementation of the Carer's Strategy.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Continuity of services to support young carers until the Council has undertaken a review of services and a coproduction process to design a new service.
- 4.2 A new Service specification is agreed and new contracted arrangements in place by 1 April 2017.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The cost for 2016-2017 is £73,252.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The service provided under this contract is the only citywide service specifically targeting young carers. The loss of this service will impact on a group of vulnerable young people and could lead to further demand on other services.
- 6.2 There will also be a reputational risk given the positive partnership work that the department has undertaken within the Young Carers Action Group.
- 6.3 The joint inspection of Children's Services highlighted the need to promote services for young carers and not extending the contract could have a negative impact on any further inspections.
- 6.4 The risk of challenge to a further one year extension is considered to be low given the future intention to advertise this contract As this is a social care contract and therefore for the purposes of the current Procurement Regulations a 'Part B service'. The current procurement legislation for Part B services is not as onerous and permits direct awards for lower value contracts where community obligations do not apply and there is no cross border interest on balance the need for continuity is considered to outweigh any risk of challenge given the value and nature of the contract. As the value of the contract since 2009 to date is £525,000 the coproduction process to develop the future service will take account of the new Public Contract (Scotland) Regulations 2015

applicable from 18 April 2016 which requires the contract opportunity to be openly advertised.

- 6.5 CSO's normally require competition for these values, however best value would be obtained by providing time for coproduction process to be built in – impacting on the time for the tender process to be completed.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 The Council's approach to procurement of this service will have a direct impact on its ability to meet its single outcome agreement objective of SO3. As such final procurement of this service will be subject to an ongoing and full equality impact assessment.

8. Sustainability impact

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

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Consultation and engagement with stakeholders will be part of the coproduction process which will start in April 2016.

10. Background reading/external references

Edinburgh Young Carers Project - Evaluation Summary Report 2013

 [Edinburgh Young Carers Project - Summary Report October 2013.pdf](#)

Alistair Gaw

Acting Executive Director of Communities and Families

Contact: Andy Jeffries, Interim Head of Service, Children's Services

E-mail: andrew.jeffries@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3017

Links

Coalition pledges

P1 – Increase support for vulnerable children, including help for families so that fewer go into care

Council priorities

CO1 – 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 in need, or with a disability, have improved life chances

CO4 – Our children and young people are physically and emotionally healthy

CO5 – Our children and young people are safe from harm or fear of harm, and do not harm others within their communities

CO6 – Our children 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