

Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Thursday, 17 March 2016

Extension of Children 1st Contract

Item number	7.25
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive Summary

This report is to request approval for an 18 month extension to the Children 1st Contract. This extension request 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

Extension of Children 1st Contract

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Resource Committee approve the extension of two Children 1st contracts for a total value of £203,600 for ongoing services to families of young children for an 18 month period from 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2017.

2. Background

- 2.1 Children 1st have provided services to families under two separate contracts with the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 2.2 One of these contracts was a revision of a service level agreement relating to the provision of befriending for young people. That contract has been revised to provide systemic support to families with pre-school children in need.
- 2.3 The second contract has also been revised. Originally for support to vulnerable children and their families in the South of the City it has been reshaped as a city-wide service.
- 2.4 Both of these services are being realigned as part of the development of the authority's integrated planning and assessment framework supporting the implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child and the Additional support for Learning Act. This is critical to delivering the authority's key priorities for children and families.
- 2.5 It is proposed to monitor the operation of these contracts and review the focus of this funding in light of the overall pattern of services for vulnerable children and families in order to determine the terms for contracts for the medium to long term.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The two contracts with Children 1st require to be reviewed in light of changes in the overall pattern of services to vulnerable children with additional support needs.
- 3.2 The contract for befriending of young people has already been refocused to provision of support to families of pre-school children. This is a need which has

become more acute with the emphasis in Early Years Services on provision of Childcare and Learning.

- 3.3 The second service which was originally contracted for work within the South Edinburgh Area has already been revised as a city-wide service focused on supporting vulnerable children and families, with an emphasis on the implementation of Getting it Right for Every Child in the context of Additional Support for Learning. The purpose of this is to address the authority's key priorities for children and families:
 - 3.3.1 To improve support in early years so that all children reach appropriate developmental and social milestones.
 - 3.3.2 To reduce the gap in achievement experienced by vulnerable children and young people, particularly those living in deprived areas.
 - 3.3.3 To improve and extend help and support for children and families at an early stage so that fewer children need to be looked after
 - 3.3.4 To improve outcomes for children in need, particularly those who need to be looked after and those with a disability.
- 3.4 The continuing development of Self Directed Support and the relationship with services provided by other organisations are factors which will require to be considered within a review of these contracts.
- 3.5 The services provided will be monitored over the period of contract extension to inform the review in order to determine the terms for contracts for the medium to long - term.
- 3.6 Consultation with stakeholders and a co-production will be important elements in the review which will start in April 2016.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Continuity of services to support vulnerable children and their families until the Council has undertaken a review of services and a coproduction process to ensure that the service design is fit for purpose within the overall pattern of service provision and priorities for vulnerable children and families.
- 4.2 A new Service Specification is agreed and new contracted arrangements in place by 30 September 2017

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The cost for these two contracts for the financial years 2016-2017 are detailed in the following table:

Contract	16/17	(6 Months)	
		17/18	Total
Early Years Family Support	69,972	34,986	104,958
City-Wide GIRFEC/ASL support	65,761	32,881	98,642
	135,733	67,867	203,600

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The services provided under these contracts are responding to the needs of particularly vulnerable children in need and their families. The loss of these services will impact on a group of vulnerable children and would be expected to lead to further demand on other services and Child Protection.
- 6.2 The service is provided as part of an integrated approach working in a complementary way with the Council's Additional Support for Learning Service. If the service was curtailed before a new contract could be implemented it would have significant impact on the effectiveness of the Council's other support services.
- 6.3 There is also a reputational risk given the positive partnership work over years with Children 1st.
- 6.4 Council Standing Orders require competition for these values, however best value would be obtained by providing time for coproduction process to be built in. This in turn impacts on the time required for the tender process to be completed. The contract extension will allow the review of this and similar services with the goal of developing a service specification which takes account of learning from collaborative working with all stakeholders.

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

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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