

Policy & Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 25 June 2020

Renewal of NHS Service Level Agreements

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Policy and Sustainability Committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 approve the extension of Service Level Agreement contracts for children's services with the NHS, to the value of £984,615, listed at Appendix 1, from 1 July 2020.

Alistair Gaw

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Renewal of NHS Service Level Agreements

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report is to request approval for:
 - 2.1.1 the extension of nine months funding arrangements to the value of £107,000 for NHS services supporting Looked After Children and Young People.
 - 2.1.2 the extension of nine months funding arrangements to the value of £877,615 for NHS Therapy Inclusion Partnership and NHS Speech and Language Therapy services in mainstream and special schools' provisions.
- 2.2 The total value for the extension of the funding arrangements equates to £984,615.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Authority currently commissions the NHS to provide a number of enhanced services to children and young people as detailed in in the main report. Some of these arrangements have been jointly reviewed during financial year 2019-20 and are deemed appropriate to continue. Delivery and performance are considered fit for purpose and in line with the Scottish Government's strategic priorities for Getting it Right for Every Child. Committee Approval has already been sought and granted in March 2020.
- 3.2 Some arrangements are still under review. A request for three months renewal for these services was submitted to F&R Committee for approval, on the proviso that the full report and the recommendations would be submitted for consideration prior to the beginning of academic year 2020-21.
- 3.3 Due to the unprecedented times and the schools' closure, an effective review has not been completed. To ensure consistency and delivery of these children's services, it is deemed appropriate to extend the current provisions until the end of 20/21 financial year, to allow sufficient time for a comprehensive review of the requirement. Committee Approval is therefore being sought to extend the current arrangements until the review is completed.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 places a duty on the Education authority to make appropriate arrangements for identifying those children for whose school education they are responsible, who may have additional support needs. Appropriate agencies have a duty to help the education authority discharge their duties. NHS Lothian and the Education Authority (the Council) collaborate to meet children's additional support needs, promoting integrated working across agencies in assessment, intervention, planning, provision and review.
- 4.2 The Act requires Councils and the NHS to ensure that children's services are provided in ways which:
 - 4.2.1 best safeguard, support and promote the wellbeing of children
 - 4.2.2 ensure that any action to meet needs is taken at the earliest appropriate time
 - 4.2.3 take appropriate action to prevent needs arising.
- 4.3 Considering this, the Council commissions additional services to ensure that children have timely access to health services appropriate to their additional support needs at school and early years. This also ensures that children can experience seamless support where they may require a range of health and educational support for complex needs, for example, consistent approaches to moving and handling for children who require high levels of physical support in everyday living.
- 4.4 The funding for these services adds value to what is already being provided by NHS Lothian under statutory duties. The services are provided with the aim of enhancing pupils' access to the curriculum and maximising educational achievements, literacy and social development.
- 4.5 These services include:
 - 4.5.1 Allied Health Professional services, principally Speech and Language Therapy for children and young people in school.
 - 4.5.2 Specialist assessment, advice and staff training for children who require high levels of physical assistance in school
 - 4.5.3 A contribution towards the Prepare team costs. Prepare is a multi-agency team providing social work and medical support to pregnant women with complex substance misuse. The team is highly successful in supporting women to stabilise their drug use leading to better health and long-term care outcomes for babies.
 - 4.5.4 Medical support for young people who are previously looked after by the local authority
 - 4.5.5 Mental health support for Looked After and Accommodated children and young people.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The request for nine months renewal is due to a full review of the current SLA that the Local Authority is undertaking in collaboration with the service providers, the key stakeholders and the wider community with a focus on improving wellbeing outcomes.
- 5.2 Data, findings and recommendations will be submitted for consideration and approval prior to the beginning of financial year 2021-22.
- 5.3 Approval for a short-term extension is therefore being sought.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The total value of the agreements' extension is £984,615. Details of the financial impact of each service provision are listed in Appendix 1.
- 6.2 Budgetary provision exists for these commitments.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The services provided under these Service Level Agreements are responding to the need for effective integrated support and early intervention for children at school and key targeted services.
- 7.2 Council Standing Orders normally require competition for these values, however best value in this instance is achieved through maintaining the status quo until a fully comprehensive assessment is completed.
- 7.3 There are no adverse environmental outcomes arising from this report

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 Guidance on partnership working between allied health professions and education
- 8.2 The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004
- 8.3 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- 8.4 Getting it Right for Looked After Children and Young People Strategy

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Proposed NHS Budgets

Appendix 1

Proposed NHS Budgets 2020/21

- The cost for the nine months extension of the Service Level Agreement for Speech and Language Therapy and Therapy Inclusion Partnership is £877,615.
- The cost for NHS Mental Health and Wellbeing services for Looked after Children and Young People is £107,000.

Description	Budget	Award
Mental Health and Wellbeing (LAAC)	£107,000	9 months
Speech and Language Therapy (including ASD OT)	£840,000	9 months
Therapy Inclusion Project (TIP)	£37,615	9 months
Other Total	£984,615	