

# Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Friday, 6 December 2019

## Waiver for Gilmerton Road Short Break Service

Executive/routine  
Wards All  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 The Finance and Resources Committee is asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Approve the payment of up to £308,533 to Action for Children as Edinburgh's contribution to the cost of short break provision for disabled children and young people (Gilmerton Road Care Home) as part of a service level agreement with NHS Lothian, and the other Lothians councils

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## Waiver for Gilmerton Road Short Break Service

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report seeks approval for the waiver of Contract Standing Orders to allow payment to Action for Children as a part of a service level agreement with NHS Lothian, and the other Lothians councils. This service delivered by Action for Children at Gilmerton Road Care Home provides short breaks for a maximum of five children and young people with a learning disability and challenging behaviour up to the age of 19.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Gilmerton Road Care Home service provides short breaks for a maximum of five children and young people with a learning disability and challenging behaviour up to the age of 19. The service also provides an 'emergency' bed for young people in crisis.
- 3.2 The children and young people have planned breaks of varying lengths and frequency based on their, and their family's needs. Children and families also receive 'Outreach' support between periods of residential respite.
- 3.3 The service is situated in a residential area of south Edinburgh, close to local amenities and public transport links. The accommodation consists of a single storey, six-bedroom building with an enclosed garden/play area. The building is adapted to cater for any young person who uses a wheelchair.
- 3.4 The key aim of the project is to prevent family breakdown which would see children admitted into hospital on a long-term basis and or become Looked After and Accommodated in residential institutions. The project provides a comprehensive and flexible support service for children and their families, as responsive as possible to their needs.

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 There has been a service level agreement in place with Action for Children led by City of Edinburgh Council until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 at which point NHS Lothian as the largest funder took on responsibility to manage and to lead on the future procurement of the service. The three Lothians councils (Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian) are also part of this arrangement. Each local authority has an identified number of nights at the residential unit it can then allocate to families and a number of outreach hours that can be allocated to families.
- 4.2 Under the current agreement, children resident in Edinburgh are assigned 726 nights respite each year and 3,554 hours of outreach.
- 4.3 The statutory partners agreed that it was necessary to test the market to ascertain if there were other organisations interested in and capable of delivering a short break service for disabled children and young people. A waiver to cover 2019-20 was agreed by Directors to enable a procurement process to go forward. NHS Lothian has advised that this process will take longer than initially expected and therefore a further year of operation by Action for Children under the service level agreement is required.
- 4.4 Should this waiver not be agreed for 2020-21, Communities and Families would then need to seek other short break provision at considerably higher cost and there may be a risk to children as they may not be able to remain at home.

## 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1 A procurement process for the service beyond 2020-21 is being led by NHS Lothian in partnership with the local authorities. NHS Lothian will be publishing a Prior Information Notice in November 2019 to alert the market to a future contract opportunity. It is intended to publish a full Invitation to Tender in June 2020 with a start date for the new contract of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

## 6. Financial impact

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- 6.1 The cost of the service for City of Edinburgh Council for 2020-21 is estimated to be £308,533 and this will be contained within the Children's Services budget. NHS Lothian will contribute approximately £538,000 to the total running costs of the service (£1,048,000) which helps to offset the costs to the local authorities.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 The Care Inspectorate undertook inspections in August 2019 (Outreach Work) and April 2018 (Care Home). The reports from these inspections highlighted parental satisfaction with the services.
- 7.2 Under The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 and The Children (Scotland) Act 1995, the Council has a duty to support families with a disabled child and the service provided at Gilmerton Road supports the council to meet this duty.
- 7.3 There are no adverse equalities or sustainability impacts arising from this report.

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

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N/A

## **9. Appendices**

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N/A