

Education, Children and Families Committee

10am, Tuesday, 18 May 2021

Renewal of NHS Lothian Service Level Agreements

Executive/routine
Wards
Council Commitments

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Education, Children and Families Committee is asked to:
- 1.1.1 Note the action taken by Finance and Resources Committee on 5th March 2020 and by Policy and Sustainability Committee on 25th June 2020 to extend the funding to NHS Lothian for twelve months.

The request was submitted to ensure the continuity of the service for the financial year 20/21.
 - 1.1.2 Approve the award of Service Level Agreement contracts in principle to NHS Lothian for 24 months to the value of £1,912,605 listed at Appendix 1 and refer this to the Finance and Resources Committee on 20 May 2021 for final approval
 - 1.1.3 Approve the extension of the current arrangements in principle with NHS Lothian for 12 months, to the value of £380,335, listed at Appendix 2 and refer this to the Finance and Resources Committee on 20 May 2021 for final approval

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Renewal of NHS Lothian Service Level Agreements

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report details how the local authority proposes to deliver the services jointly with NHS Lothian for the financial years 21/22 and 22/23.
- 2.2 This report is to request approval for:
 - 2.2.1 the award of three Service Level Agreements for two years (one year + one year possible extension) to the value of £1,912,605 for NHS Speech and Language Therapy, Autistic Spectrum Disorder Occupational Therapy (ASD OT) in mainstream and special school provisions and Occupational Therapy in Early Years settings (OT EY);
 - 2.2.2 the extension of twelve months' funding arrangements to the value of £380,335 for NHS services supporting Looked After Children and Young People, Additional Support for Learning nurse and Prepare nurse.
- 2.3 This report is also to advise Education Committee of the action taken by Finance and Resources Committee and Policy and Sustainability Committee to award the funding to NHS Lothian for financial year 20/21.
- 2.4 The total value for the extension of the funding arrangements and the award of the contracts equates to £2,292,940.

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 the main report. Some of these arrangements have been jointly reviewed during financial year 2020-21 to ensure that 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 is being sought to formally award such Service Level Agreements.
- 3.2 Some arrangements are still under review. Due to the unprecedented times and the closure of schools, not all reviews have been completed. To ensure consistency and delivery of these services for children with high levels of complex needs, it is deemed appropriate to extend the current provisions until the end of 21/22 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 reviews are 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, and 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 in Early Years settings. This also ensures that children can experience seamless support where they require a range of health and educational support for complex needs.
- 4.4 These services include:
 - 4.4.1 Allied Health Professional services, principally Speech and Language Therapy for children and young people in Early Years Settings and schools.
 - 4.4.2 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 issues. The team is highly successful in supporting women to stabilise their drug use leading to better health and long-term care outcomes for babies.
 - 4.4.3 Medical support for young people who are previously looked after by the local authority
 - 4.4.4 Mental health support for Looked After and Accommodated children and young people
- 4.5 The additional 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.

- 4.6 School-based services have been reviewed following a fully comprehensive assessment of the requirement and the market, to fulfil our statutory duty to secure best value.
- 4.7 With regards to the Speech and Language Therapy service the Local Authority engaged with the key stakeholders and the provider to redesign a service which was felt no longer fit for purpose. The changes to delivery were suggested by Head Teachers and a variety of stakeholders. These changes were agreed with the provider in the form of a new co-produced specification and are being implemented in partnership.
- 4.8 To ensure and improve consistency and delivery of the integrated children's services, it is deemed appropriate by both partners to align services delivered in schools with the academic year. It is hoped that this will streamline reporting requirements, performance evaluation and evidence of improved outcomes.
- 4.9 Robust evidence of the newly shaped service is being gathered, ensuring all clusters are allocated the required hours as discussed and negotiated. Over-usage and under-usage of time allocation will be analysed and redistributed as appropriate.

Key performance indicators and achieved outcomes will be reviewed at the end of each academic year and closely monitored to ensure previous concerns regarding the Speech and Language Therapy Service have been resolved.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The request for twelve months renewal for services listed in Appendix 2 is due to an ongoing review of the current arrangements that the Local Authority is undertaking in collaboration with the service provider, key stakeholders, including those who use the services, and the wider community, with a focus on improving wellbeing outcomes.
- 5.2 The primary focus is on the CAMHS services, which are currently being discussed by Senior Managers in NHS Lothian and City of Edinburgh Council. The partners are exploring the requirement and shaping the mental health provisions to ensure they are fully accessible to children and young people.
- 5.3 Data, findings and recommendations will be submitted for consideration and approval prior to the beginning of financial year 2022-23.
- 5.4 Approval for a short-term extension is therefore being sought.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The total value of the awards listed in Appendix 1 is £1,912,605.
- 6.2 The total value of extensions to the current arrangements listed in Appendix 2 is £380,335. This includes the cost of individual care packages (HESS - Health and Education Support Service and LENS - Lothian Exceptional Needs Service). In the light of the increase in the number of children with complex needs, this would be approximately £100k.

- 6.3 The total value of the Service Level Agreements and the extensions equates to £2,292,940. Details of the financial impact of each service provision are listed in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 6.4 Budgetary provision exists for these commitments.
- 6.5 There are no revenue or capital costs associated with the report
- 6.6 There were no procurement costs associated with awarding the Service Level Agreements.

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.
- 7.2 There are no adverse environmental outcomes arising from this report
- 7.3 The views of the Headteachers and the schools have been gathered through a strategy working group and implementation group. Parents' and carers' views will be sought through focus groups as part of the ongoing review.
- 7.4 The impact on the community will be to provide support more efficiently and locally, specifically in relation to children and young people with additional support needs and mental health difficulties.
- 7.5 With the aim of providing early co-ordinated supports locally, it is hoped that travel to access services will be reduced therefore having a positive impact on carbon reduction.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004
- 8.2 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
- 8.3 Getting it Right for Looked After Children and Young People Strategy

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 Proposed NHS budget (Service Level Agreements)
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Proposed NHS budget (Extension)

Appendix 1

Proposed NHS Budgets 2021/23 – Service Level Agreements

- The cost of the Service Level Agreement for Speech and Language Therapy is £800,928 for 2021/22 financial year and £824,955 for 2022/23
- The cost of the Service Level Agreement for ASD Occupational Therapy is £87,249 for 2021/22 financial year and £91,129 for 2022/23.
- The cost for the Occupational Therapy post is £53,354 for 2021/2022 financial year and £54,990 for 2022/2023

Description	Budget	Award	
Speech and Language Therapy	£1,625,883	1 year + 1 year	1st July 2021 – 30 th June 2023
ASD Occupational Therapy	£178,378	1 year + 1 year	1st July 2021 – 30 th June 2023
Occupational Therapy - Early Years	£108,344	2 years	1 st April 2021 – 31 st March 2023
Total	£1,912,605		

Appendix 2

Proposed NHS Budgets 2021/22 – Extension of current arrangements

- The cost for CAMHS services is £160,440 per annum
- The cost for the Through Care and After Care Nurse is £50,247 per annum
- The cost for the ASL nurse is £24,778 per annum.
- The cost for the Prepare nurse is £44,870 per annum

Description	Budget	Extension	
CAMHS – Health and Wellbeing	£142,642	1 year	1 st April 2021 – 31 st March 2022
CAMHS - Young People's Service nurse	£17,798	1 year	1 st April 2021 – 31 st March 2022
TCAC Nurse	£50,247	1 year	1 st April 2021 – 31 st March 2022
ASL Nurse	£24,778		1 st April 2021 – 31 st March 2022
Prepare nurse	£44,870	1 year	1 st April 2021 – 31 st March 2022
HESS / LENS care packages	£100,00	1 year	1 st April 2021 – 31 st March 2022
Total	£380,335		