

Finance & Resources Committee

10:00am, Thursday, 3 March 2022

Education and Children's Services Contracts Extension

Executive
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1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Resources Committee:
- 1.1.1 Notes the contracts extensions awarded as an urgent decision in accordance with section 4.1 of the Council's Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions by the Director of Education and Children's Services, in consultation with the Convenor and Vice Convenor of Finance and Resources.
 - 1.1.2 Urgency powers to authorise these extensions were sought and granted by the Convenor and Vice Convenor of this Committee on 11 January 2022. The urgency procedure under 4.1 of the Committee Terms of Reference and Delegated Functions states that *'If a decision which would normally be made by a Committee requires to be made urgently between meetings of the Committee, the Chief Executive or appropriate Director, in consultation with the Convenor or Vice-Convenor, may take action, subject to the matter being reported to the next Committee'*.

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Education and Children's Services Contracts Extension

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the current Education and Children's Services commissioning activity and how this impacts on contractual arrangements including the requirement to waive the Contract Standing Orders to allow contracts to be extended at the expiry of the current contract duration

3. Background

- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council (the Council) works with families to support them to continue to care for their children and prevent escalation of needs and further crisis intervention
- 3.2 In line with the Promise, the strategic plan and direction from the Edinburgh Children's Partnership, Education and Children's Services Directorate was actively procuring a range of services supporting early intervention and prevention when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. This impacted both on the ability of the Service to progress the procurement activity according to initial timescales and the scope for providers to provide services in line with service specifications.
- 3.3 Ongoing Commissioning projects have been heavily impacted by the realignment of services to better respond to emerging needs in the community and education settings. Previously commissioned services could not be delivered as planned, whilst additional services, although required, could not be commissioned. Partnership working with the voluntary sector, through a relationship – based approach, has supported the delivery of services during the pandemic. The work carried out with our partners will inform the co-production and market engagement for future procurement activities.
- 3.4 Commissioning activities have now resumed albeit timescales have been extended with a consequent impact on contractual renewals. The Health and Social care market is also under unprecedented pressure, making providers' sustainability a priority for Edinburgh Council
- 3.5 As services slowly resume safely, in the spirit of mutual sustainability, and in the best interest of the children and the young people in our community, Committee approval is being sought to waive the Council's Contract Standing Orders and extend the

current contractual agreements to ensure continuity of support in light of post Covid-19 circumstances and emerging needs of children and young people.

- 3.6 This paper sets out, on a service by service basis, the proposed contractual arrangements with supporting rationale

4. Main report

- 4.1 The contractual arrangements covered by this paper, annual values, contract end dates and recommendations are summarised in the table below:

Contract	Annual value (£m)	Recommendation – contracts to be extended until
a) Early intervention and family support	2.9	31 st March 2023 31 st March 2024
b) Looked After Children and Young People	1.4	31 st March 2023 31 st March 2024
c) Partner Agencies	0.3	31 st March 2023 31 st March 2024

- 4.2 Service requirements include

4.2.1 a)

- Early intervention, prevention and family support
- Holiday support for children, young people and their families
- Mainstream Activities Inclusion programme
- Therapeutic Services for bereaved children and young people
- Support to black and minority ethnic carers of disabled children and young people
- Services for children affected by parental substance use

4.2.2 b)

- Residential care for a very small number of highly complex young people
- Support and accommodation for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) seeking asylum in Scotland
- Independent Advocacy for Looked After Children and Young People

4.2.3 c)

- Increased mental health support to children and young people and to children with complex medical needs in mainstream schools
- Voluntary Sector Support Services
- Children's Hospices Across Scotland

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Subject to approval, the contracts will be extended, and monitored accordingly.
- 5.2 Each Team within the Directorate will be responsible for their own contract management and payments.
- 5.3 Extension to the arrangements with the current providers will ensure continuity of the services.
- 5.4 Market engagement and coproduction with providers, voluntary sector, partner agencies and service users will be progressed according to the set timescales for each project
- 5.5 The Service Area, in partnership with the Planning and Commissioning Team and Commercial and Procurement Services, will also be considering how to address the priority of non-contracted spend, based on the analysis of the themes of current waivers. The approach will include the consideration of resources required to identify needs for appropriate frameworks such as counselling, specific training and online resources.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The financial value of each contract is summarised in the appendix to this report. All proposed arrangements are within existing budgetary provision levels.
- 6.2 The requested extensions secure Best Value in its ultimate balance between quality and cost, ensuring the best outcomes for the children and the young people in the interest of the Local Authority and its community.
- 6.3 We estimate the risk to be low, due to the limited market and the restricted ability to switch providers, supporting the continuity of service provisions, care and support to vulnerable children, young people and their families.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 Each of the ongoing procurement exercises is being co-produced with service users, providers and other relevant stakeholders.

- 7.2 Where co-production has not been possible due to the pandemic, projects have been put on hold until an accurate assessment of the requirement and an enhanced level of engagement can be progressed.

8. Background/External Reading

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Education and Children’s Services - recommended contract extension

Appendix 1

Contract	Annual value £	Timescales
<i>Early intervention and family support</i>		
Barnardo's Early Intervention (CSE)	27,756	
Capability Scotland	196,056	
Barnardo's Caern	465,000	
The Action Group BEMAS project	48,832	
Circle CAPSU project	419,365	
Guide Dogs for the Blind	20,068	
Richmond's Hope	48,350	
Stepping Stones	50,000	
The Yard	344,760	31 st March 2023
Barnardo's ASL	670,000	31 st March 2024
Sub total Early intervention and family support		£2,960,187
<i>Looked After Children and Young People</i>		
Love Care	936,000	
Cyrenians	71,032	
Benchmark4 LLP	214,396	31 st March 2023
Who Cares Scotland	115,000	31 st March 2024
Sub total Support to LAC Children and Young People		£1,451,428
<i>NHS and other Partners</i>		
NHS LAC, ASL Health, Wellbeing, CAMHS	243,000	
EVOC	59,170	31 st March 2023
CHAS National Agreement	60,079	31 st March 2024
Sub total Service Level Agreements		£362,249