

Report of Head of Service, Learning for Life

Report to The Director of Children's Services

Date: November 2015

Subject: To invoke Contract Procedure Rule 21.3 to extend the Willow Young Carer contract DSIN-93V9FD for a further 17 months from 1st February 2016 to 30th June 2017.



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The report seeks the approval of the Director of Childrens Services in invoking Contracts Procedure Rule 21.3 to extend the Willow Young Carers contract for a further 17 months from 1st February 2016 – 30th June 2017.
2. Willow is an essential service providing support to young carers by enabling them to maximise the opportunities and benefits provided in universal settings such as schools, sports centres, youth provision, organised and informal out of school settings and providing young carer specific opportunities for those young carers whose circumstances mean that they need more targeted support.
3. The Willow Young Carers contract was initially awarded for 3 years with 2 x 12 month extensions available. This is the second of the 2 available extension periods. The contract was only previously extended by 7 months due to timescales and governance issues at the first extension period. This service is jointly commissioned with Adult Social Care.
4. There had been a proposal submitted to reduce the overall value of the contract. However, CSLT felt that a reduction in the contract value was not sustainable in maintaining the effectiveness of the contract. Therefore, the contract is being extended at the same value for the remaining available 17 month extension period.

Recommendations

5. The Director of Children's Services, is recommended to agree the extension of the Willow Young Carers contract for a period of 17 months from 1st February 2016 – 30th June 2017 to ensure continuity while the service is being reviewed.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report seeks the approval of the Director of Childrens Services in invoking the Contracts Procedure rule 21.3 to extend the Willow Young Carers contract for a further 17 months from 1st February 2016 – 30th June 2017.

The funding breakdown for this service is as follows:

Children's Services: £111,473 (reflects 5% efficiency saving for 2012/13)

Adult Social Care: £104,252 per annum

Substance Misuse: £50,000 per annum

Total Funding: £265,725 per annum

2 Background information

- 2.1 Willow is an essential service providing support to young carers by enabling them to maximise the opportunities and benefits provided in universal settings such as schools, sports centres, youth provision, organised and informal out of school settings and providing young carer specific opportunities for those young carers whose circumstances mean that they need more targeted support.
- 2.2 The Willow Young Carers contract was initially awarded for 3 years with 2 x 12 month extensions available. This is the second of the 2 available extension periods.

3 Main issues

3.1 Reason for Contracts Procedure Rules Waiver/ Invocation

- 3.1.1 The current budget position has led to an annual detailed analysis, on a contract by contract basis, of whether the service purchased continues to be required and represents good value.
- 3.1.2 Throughout Sept 2014 all current contracts were reviewed with Heads of Service and Service leads in terms of continuing value for money and strategic fit. Due to the issues noted at 2.2 it is necessary to extend the Willow Young Carers contract until further review can take place.
- 3.1.3 The extension of the Willow contract will ensure that LCC is meeting its duties for the delivery of services to children and young people.
- 3.1.4 The service lead and contracts team will review the monitoring arrangements to ensure the priorities, targets and outputs still meet the needs of the service required.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 None

4.2 Consultation and Engagement

4.2.1 The current service provider has been informed of the intention to extend their existing contract.

4.2.2 Discussions have taken place with the Heads of Service and Service Lead to confirm proposed contract arrangements for service delivery.

4.3 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.3.1 The extension of the current contract means that the current service delivery model will continue. The service will be to the same client group at the same value. The decision to continue delivery of current service arrangements will not have any adverse impact on any equality group.

4.4 Council policies and City Priorities

4.4.1 This fits with the children's plan priorities to;

- Ensure the most vulnerable are protected
- Support children to be ready for learning
- Help children to be in safe, supportive families

4.5 Resources and value for money

4.5.1 The extension of this contract represents value for money by reducing disruption to the existing services by ensuring continuity from 1st February 2016 – 30th June 2017 (17 months).

4.5.2 There is a budget in place to cover the value of this extension.

4.5.3 The decision to continue delivery of current service arrangements will not have any adverse impact on any equality group

4.5.4 The service represents the only provision of its kind in the city for young carers.

The funding breakdown for this service is as follows:

Children's Services: £111,473 (reflects 5% efficiency saving for 2012/13)

Adult Social Care: £104,252 per annum

Substance Misuse: £ 50,000 per annum

Total Funding: £265,725 per annum

4.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.6.1 May be subject to Call In due to the overall value of the extension (£376,443.75) for 17 months.

4.7 Risk Management

4.7.1 Through an annual detailed analysis, on a contract by contract basis, the project teams have identified risks and actions to mitigate these as part of the commissioning programme plan for each service.

4.7.2 There is no risk of challenge as the initial contract let allowed for an extension to the contract.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The Director of Children's Services is recommended to note the contents of this report and approve the invocation of the contracts procedure rule 21.3 as detailed in this report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Director of Children's Services is recommended to agree the extension of the Willow Young Carers contract for a period of 17 months from 1st February 2016 – 30th June 2017 (17 months) to ensure continuity while the service is being reviewed.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.