

Report of Head of Service, Learning for Life

Report to the Director of Children & Families

Date: 15th May 2017

Subject: Invoke contract procedure rules 21.2 and 21.7 to the Counselling in Children's Centres contract YORE-99HLFM.



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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. Leeds Children's Services currently commissions Northpoint Wellbeing to deliver an individual counselling service to Parents/Carers of young children (including ante-natal) in the Children's Centres located in the 30% most deprived areas of Leeds.
2. The contract was let until 30th June 2017 with two optional extensions of 12 months.
3. The Head of Service Learning for Life wishes to invoke rule 21.2 to take up the first 1 x 12 months extension to the 30th June 2018.
4. The Head of Service, Learning for Life wishes to invoke rule 21.7 to vary the cost per annum for the extended period.

Recommendations

The Director of Children & Families is recommended to approve the contract extension for a further 1 x 12 months and to vary the cost of the contract from £173,001 per annum to £163,269 per annum. This 7.5% reduction will apply for the final 3 x quarters of the extended period i.e. from October 2017 to June 2018.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek approval to extend and vary the contract in order to meet the Local Authorities obligations under the Childrens & Families Act.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Leeds Children's Services currently commissions Leeds Counselling to deliver an individual counselling service to Parents/Carers of young children (including ante-natal to 5 years) in the Children's Centres located in the 30% most deprived areas of Leeds.
- 2.2 The objectives of the service are to deliver an early intervention emotionally responsive service to prevent unnecessary escalation to more targeted services. The main outcomes are:
 - Children able to live in safe and supportive environments.
 - Parents maximise emotional health and wellbeing such that they are able to support and parent in the best possible way.
- 2.3 The Learning for Life Service is extremely satisfied with the service delivery and flexibility of this contract holder.

3 Main issues

Reasons for Contract Procedure Rules Waiver

- 3.1 The current contract with Northpoint Wellbeing (YORE-99HLFM) is due to expire on 30th June 2017.

Consequence if the proposed Action is not approved

- 3.2 The contract will cease and there will be no similar provision within Childrens Centres.

Advertising

- 3.3 The Service underwent a competitive tender process in 2014. The service is currently under review therefore an extension with the existing provider is currently the most appropriate action. Consequently this opportunity has not been advertised.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Northpoint Wellbeing has been consulted as to the extension and variation and it was agreed as part of the Councils commissioned services budget planning in November 2016.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 An equality impact screening form has been completed and attached as appendix 1.

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

4.3 Council policies and best council plan

4.3.1 The service will support the following priorities in the Children and Young Peoples' plan:

- Help children to live in safe and supported families.
- Ensure the most vulnerable are protected.
- Improve behaviour, attendance & achievement.
- Support children to be ready for learning.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The current contract value is £173,001 which is to be reduced by 7.5% from the second quarter of the contract period without impacting frontline delivery; this has been agreed with the provider through rationalising some counselling activity and reduction of overheads.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This contract is not subject to Call In under the provisions made in the Council Constitution.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 A risk register is in place and will be maintained throughout the project.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The Director of Childrens Services is recommended to note the content of this report and provide permission to extend and vary the contract for a further 1 x 12 months.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Director of Childrens Services is recommended to approve the contract extension for a further 1 x 12 months and the variation to the cost of the contract from £173,001 per annum to £163,269 per annum. This 7.5% reduction will apply for the final 3 x quarters of the extended period i.e. from October 2017 to June 2018.

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.