

Report of Head of Service Complex Needs

Report to Director of Children's Services

Date: 18 January 2017



Subject: Request to invoke Contract Procedure Rule 21.2 to extend the Barnardos 'Portage' contract YORE-935MNL for a further 12 months to 30th April 2018.

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 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. The report seeks the approval of the Director of Childrens Services in invoking Contracts Procedure rule 21.2 to extend the Barnardos Portage contract YORE-935MNL for a further 12 months to 30th April 2018.
2. The current service model has been in place since May 2013 when it was subject to a competitive tender process. The value of the service is £185,000 per annum. There are options to extend this contract for a further 1 x 12 months.
3. The extension of the Portage contract will ensure that LCC is continuing to meet its duties for the delivery of services to children and young people in the most efficient and cost effective way whilst undertaking a wider review of the service.

Recommendations

4. The Director of Children's Services is recommended to agree the extension of the Portage contract for a period of 12 months from 1st May 2017 – 30th April 2018 with a value of £185,000 per annum, to ensure continuity of delivery prior to the service being reviewed.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report seeks the approval of the Director of Childrens Services in invoking Contracts Procedure rule 21.2 to extend the Barnardos 'Portage' contract YORE-935MNL for a further 12 months to 30th April 2018, whilst undertaking a wider review of the service.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Children with complex needs are usually identified via HE-N (Health Education - Notifications). There will be approximately 150 HE-Ns each year and roughly one third of these children will need access to the Portage Service.
- 2.2 Portage is a home visiting educational service for young children with complex needs, and their families. The service benefits children and their whole family and aims to promote good educational outcomes for the children and increase parental confidence and skills. Portage Home Visitors (PHV) make regular two weekly home visits working in partnership with parent/carers to support and empower them to become teachers of their own children.
- 2.3 Up to 90 children per annum will receive service from the age of 6 months to 2.5 years.
- 2.4 The current service model has been in place since May 2013 when it was subject to a competitive tender process. The value of the service is £185,000 per annum. The first of the available 2 x 12 month options to extend was taken up in 2016/17. Consequently, there are options to extend this contract for a further 1 x 12 months.

3 Main issues

Reason for contracts procedure rules waiver

- 3.1 The current budget position in Children's Services has led to a detailed analysis, on a contract by contract basis, of whether the service purchased continues to be required and represents good value.
- 3.2 The Portage Service has been developed to include all current requirements for a high quality portage service which includes registration with the National Portage Association. It has been developed with the approval of the parents who served on the development group.
- 3.3 In conjunction with the National Portage Association, the service underwent a review to explore ways of delivering a more personalised model within the existing framework. At this point, minor variations were made to the scope of the service in order to clarify the outputs and outcomes.
- 3.3 An updated options report, which included a variety of different ways to commission a Portage service with consideration towards current budget pressures and an increased focus on OBA methodology to produce better outcomes, was due to be seen at CSLT in December 2016 but the meeting was postponed in reaction to the

CQC OFSTED inspection visit. This delay has meant that there is no longer enough time to explore any of the potential preferred options without compromising on the tender process and, ultimately, service delivery. Enacting the available 12 month contract extension with Barnardos Portage Service will afford the time needed to design a delivery model and commissioning strategy that increases the local authority's ability to meet the needs of this cohort in a more effective manner.

- 3.4 Consequently, the decision has been made to continue to fund the service in 2017/18 at the same value as the previous year. This will ensure that LCC is continuing to meet its duties for the delivery of services to children and young people in the most efficient and cost effective way.

Consequences if the proposed action is not approved

- 3.5 If the proposed extension is not approved there will be a gap in delivery of the Portage Service as there is no time is available to competitively tender for this service following the budget decision that has agreed the funding.
- 3.6 If a Portage service is not in place this would significantly impair the capacity in the city to identify and support families where the attachment and bonding is not optimal. Failure to address attachment and bonding in the first two years of life could have long term consequences in terms of poorer outcomes such as mental health, behaviour, attainment, attendance, criminal activity and breaking inter-generational cycles of abuse and neglect.

Advertising

- 3.7 The Portage Service underwent a competitive tender process in 2013. 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.

Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 An options report was submitted to Councillor Mulherin and CSLT in November 2016. There was a request for additional information, so no definitive decision was made at that point. As a result the recommendation was approved to continue with the current service provider whilst undertaking a further review of the service required for Leeds.

4.2 Equality and diversity/cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 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.

4.2.2 Establishing the initial contract for the Portage Service was done through an equalities impact screening process.

4.3 Council policies and best council plan

4.3.1 The Portage Service is considered to be one of the first steps on the ladder in terms of educational support for children with SEND and fits within the 'A life ready for learning' and 'Think Family Work Family' agendas. The SEND Code of Practice [2014] recommends early intervention as the best method of closing the gap and improving outcomes for C&YP with SEND. The Leeds C&YP Plan 2015 – 19 also has a focus upon 'A life ready for learning', and 'Think Family Work Family'.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The extension of this contract represents value for money by reducing disruption to the existing service by ensuring continuity from 1st May 2017 – 30th April 2018 (12 months), while the service is being reviewed.

4.4.2 There is a budget in place to cover the appropriate value of this extension

4.4.3 There has been no increase in value of this service from Leeds City Council since 2013, so any increase in cost to deliver the service for the extension period (e.g. staffing and overheads) will be absorbed by the provider. The additional costs provided by Barnardos to deliver the service are evidenced via an annual cost analysis form

4.5 Legal implications, access to information and call-in

4.5.1 The value of this extension is below £250,000 therefore is not subject to call in

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 There would be a risk of challenge to Leeds City Council if no service is in place

4.6.2 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.

4.6.3 The initial contract let allowed for an extension to the contract.

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

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

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 21.2 as detailed in this report.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Director of Children's Services is recommended to agree the extension of the Portage contract for a period of 12 months from 1st May 2017 – 30th April 2018 with a value of £185,000 per annum, to ensure continuity of delivery prior to the service 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.