



Report of Head of Commissioning and Market Management

Report to The Deputy Director of Children's & Families

Date: 19/11/2019

Subject: To invoke Contract Procedure Rule 21.2 to extend the Willows Young Carers contract DN399087 for a further four months from the 1st December 2019 to the 31st March 2020.

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open 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

Main issues

1. The report seeks the approval of the Director of Children and Families to invoking Contract Procedure Rule 21.2 to extend the Barnardo's, Willow Young Carers contract for a further 1 x 4 months from 1st December 2019 to 31st March 2020.
2. **Best Council Plan Implications** (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

Approval for the request will support a number of priorities in the Best Council Plan:

Child Friendly City:-

- Supporting families to give children the best start in life.
- Improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes.
- Improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing. Helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work.

Priorities:- OUTCOMES we want everyone in Leeds to...

- Be safe and feel safe
- Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives.
- Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life.
- Enjoy greater access to green spaces, leisure and the arts.

3. Resource Implications

The original contract was agreed jointly between Children's & Families, Adults & Health and Leeds CGG was originally for 8 months £203,817, however, the whole year cost, including the current extension was agreed totalling £305,725. This means the requested extension will be for four months at a value of £101,908.

4. Recommendations

The Deputy Director of Children and Families Services is recommended to agree the extension of the Willow Young Carers contract for a period of 1 x 4 months from 1st December 2019 to the 31st March 2020.

The contract, which is held jointly between LCC Children & Families and Adults & Health and Leeds CCGs commenced on 1st April 2019 for a period of eight months, with the option to extend by up to four months.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the contract with Barnardo's, Willows Young Carers Service to be extended for 1 x 4 month which was written in to the original DDN to be invoked.

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 which provide young carers specific opportunities for those young carers whose circumstances mean that they need more targeted support.
- 2.2 The Willows Service has recently been reviewed and was found to be giving positive outcomes and shows good value for money. A Young Carers Strategy is being formulated to enhance the Councils commitment to Carers and their families by enhancing the statutory requirements of the Carers Act 2014. The Young Carers Strategy has been out to public consultation and now is awaiting formal sign off by Executive Committee.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The issue is that a full competitive tendering process needs to be completed to allow for a suitable bidder to be awarded the contract, to do this the Young Carers Strategy needs to be ratified and adopted which forms the basis of the specification.
- 3.2 The Young Carers Joint Review carried out between Adults & Health and Children's & Families which was completed in 2017 showed the current service to be "working to expectations of the current contract". The new specification has developed further to include the requirements of the 2014 Care Act and other relevant data. We are currently undertaking a competitive tender exercise with the new contract and provider to be in place for April 2020.
- 3.3 There is the provision to extend for up to 4 months in the present contract which we are hoping to invoke.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Children's & Families, Adults & Health together with the LEEDS CCG have all been consulted and agree with the extension.
- 4.1.2 The current Service provider (Barnardo's Willows Young Carers Service) have been consulted and agree to the extension of the contract. This will allow consistency and continuity to be gained by the service users whilst a competitive tender process can be completed.
- 4.1.3 Consultation have also taken place with the Heads of Service, Service users and the general public as to the creation/adoption of the Young Carers Strategy. The strategy will then be incorporated in to the specification of the new Young Carers contract. This consultation has informed the new specification and will inform ongoing development of the current service.

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.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 **The Best Council Plan**
Our strategic planning document, sitting at the top of a range of supporting strategies. It sets out what the council, working in partnership, will do to deliver better outcomes across Leeds. It informs our budget setting and financial strategies and is an essential tool for planning and delivering services. It also helps our staff understand how the work they do makes a real difference to the people of Leeds and shows our partners how we contribute to citywide priorities. Our current Best Council Plan was approved by Full Council in February 2019 and covers the period 2019/20 to 2020/21 (outlined in section 2).

4.3.2 Child Friendly Leeds

Supporting families to give children the best start in life. Improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes. Improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing. Helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work. Enhancing the city now and for future generations

4.3.3 Leeds Children & Young Peoples Plan 2018-2023

Our vision is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK and the best city for children and young people to grow up in. We want Leeds to be a child friendly city. Through our vision and obsessions we invest in children and young people to help build an increasingly prosperous and successful city. We aim to improve outcomes for all our children whilst recognising the need for outcomes to improve faster for children and young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds

4.3.2 Climate Emergency

The service specification requires bidders to consider the environmental impact of their approach to service delivery. During mobilisation they were asked to demonstrate how they will reduce their carbon footprint, including making best use of technology and sustainable transport in their day to day operations. As this is a request to invoke an extension the provider has looked at the taxi company used to see if there is an alternative to this thus creating value for money and resulting in benefit to the environment.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.2 The extension of this contract represents value for money by ensuring continuity of the service provision from 1st December 2019 to 31st March 2020 (4 months). A new commissioning process will be complete and a new 3 + 2 year contract to commence 1st April 2020. This allows for the competitive tendering process to be followed and completed.

4.4.3 There is a budget in place to cover the value of the extension and all services have confirmed their contribution.

4.4.4 The decision to continue delivery of the current service will have a positive impact on the service users as continuity is maintained and a robust contract monitoring process will continue to highlight best practice and adoption of innovative processes.

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

4.4.6 The total breakdown for the whole contract is as follows

Childrens & Families	£161,473
Adults & Health	£104,252
CCG Funding	£ 40,000
Total funding	£305,725 per annum (equated to £101,908 for the extension period).

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.2 The Director of Children and Families should note that the proposed extension is in accordance with the contract terms. The value of this extension provision is £101,908 for the 4 months period.
- 4.5.3 This is a Significant Operational Decision which is not subject to call-in and there are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information Rules.
- 4.5.4 Whilst there are no legal implications in taking up the extension, in making their final decision, the Director of Children and Families should note the above comments and be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for the Council.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.2 Through an annual detailed analysis, on a contract by contract basis the project team have identified risks and actions to mitigate these as part of the commissioning programme plan for each service.
- 4.6.3 There is no risk of challenge as the initial contract allowed for an extension to the contract.

5 Conclusions

The extension is permissible within the terms of the original contract, represents value for money, ensures that continuity is maintained and will enable a competitive tender procedure to be completed ensuring a suitable provider is commissioned in 2020.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Deputy Director of Children and Families Services is recommended to agree the extension of the Willow Young Carers contract for a period of 1 x 4 months from 1st December 2019 to the 31st March 2020.
- 6.2 The contract, which is held jointly between LCC Children & Families and Adults & Health and Leeds CCGs commenced on 1st April 2019 for a period of eight months, with the option to extend by up to four months.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

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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 work