

Permission to extend the Cluster Cooperation Agreements

Date: 16th November 2021

Report of: Head of Service - Children and Families Commissioning Team

Report to: Deputy Director, Children & Families Social Work Service

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report seeks **significant operational decision** from the Deputy Director to extend the Cluster Cooperation agreements that commenced on 1st April 2021. The extension will commence on 1st April 2022 and will expire on 31st March 2023.
- Permission was granted in February 2021 via key decision (D52724) to establish cooperation agreements with clusters in respect of the council funding for clusters. The agreements were initially established for 12 months (1st April 2021 -31st March 2022) with two options to extend of 12 months.
- The funding for clusters (issued as part of the cooperation agreement) will continue to be funded utilising the funding formula that was approved as part of the key decision (D52724) referenced above.
- Clusters are a fundamental part of the Early Help strategy, Children & Young People's Plan and the Best Council Plan
- Clusters support the best council plan outcomes of:
 - Be safe and feel safe
 - Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives
 - Live in good quality, affordable homes in clean and well cared for places
 - Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life
 - Earn enough to support themselves and their families

Recommendations

- a) The Deputy Director is asked to provide permission to extend the cluster cooperation agreement with clusters. The extension will commence on 1st April 2022 and will expire on 31st March 2023
- b) The funding for clusters (issued as part of the cooperation agreement) will continue to be funded utilising the funding formula that was approved as part of the key decision (D52724) referenced above. The total LCC cluster funding pot to be applied to the formula is £780,830.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The current cooperation agreement with clusters expires on 31st March 2022. Options to extend the cooperation agreement were agreed as part of the key decision permission to establish the cooperation agreement.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 2 Clusters are a fundamental part of the Early Help strategy, Children & Young People's Plan and the Best Council Plan.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 3 Consultation has taken place with the Head of Early Help to confirm this is the correct approach and in line with the evolving work of the Early Help Review.

What are the resource implications?

- 4 The budget for LCC funding for clusters sits within the Early Help Service. Funding is allocated to clusters utilising the formula that was approved as part of the key decision (D52724) in February 2021.
- 5 The total LCC cluster funding pot to be applied to the formula is £780,830.
- 6 Appendix 1 lists the funding value that each clusters will receive for the financial year 2022/23.

What are the legal implications?

- 7 As detailed in the key decision report (D52724): the decision to establish cooperation agreements falls within Clause 1.5.2 of the Contract Procedure Rules as it is a funding agreement between public bodies and falls outside of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 pursuant to Regulation 12(7). Therefore it is not a procurement for the purpose of the Contract Procedure Rules or Public Contract Regulations 2015.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 8 Clusters are a fundamental part of the city's early help strategy. Whilst the LCC funding only represents a proportion of the overall funding for clusters (majority is funded via schools) they are reliant on the LCC funding to maintain their offer to children & families.
- 9 The risk of not confirming this funding, and extension to the cooperation agreement, in a timely manner to clusters creates budgetary risks for the clusters and a potential instability in planning of resource/staffing for clusters.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 10 The Clusters are a fundamental part of the Early Help strategy, Children & Young People's Plan and the Best Council Plan and support the health & wellbeing pillar. Clusters support the best council plan outcomes of:
 - Be safe and feel safe

- Enjoy happy, healthy, active lives
- Live in good quality, affordable homes in clean and well cared for places
- Do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life
- Earn enough to support themselves and their families

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

11 No other options were considered.

How will success be measured?

12 As part of the cooperation agreement: clusters are required to submit annual reports that evidences work undertaken and the impact of this work.

What is the timetable for implementation?

13 The cooperation agreements will be extended by 31st March 2022: to commence on 1st April 2022. The aim is to notify clusters of our intention to extend the cooperation agreement and to notify them of their funding amount before the Christmas school break.

Appendices

14 Appendix 1 - Cluster funding allocations

Background papers

15 None

Appendix 1: Cluster funding allocations – 2022/23

Cluster	Funding 2022/23
2gether	£63,075
Aireborough	£31,209
ARM	£70,697
Beeston, Cottingley and Middleton	£48,545
Bramley	£44,041
Brigshaw	£18,006
EPOS	£17,095
ESNW	£17,612
Garforth	£15,217
Headingley-Kirkstall partnership	£28,234
Horsforth	£17,292
Inner East	£74,217
Inner West	£50,252
J.E.S.S.	£68,906
Morley	£19,031
Otley/Pool/Bramhope	£12,645
Pudsey	£52,874
Rothwell	£32,667
Seacroft Manston	£61,857
Templenewsam Halton	£37,357
TOTAL	£780,830