

Decision to extend contract with Northpoint Wellbeing for Counselling Services in Children's Centres for Parents and Carers of Young Children aged 0 – 5 (Including Antenatal)

Date: 10 June 2022

Report of: Commissioning Officer, Commissioning and Market Management

Report to: Director of Children and Families

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 approval to extend the contract for Northpoint Wellbeing Counselling Services in Children's Centres for Parents and Carers of Young Children aged 0 – 5 (Including Antenatal) in line with CPR 21:2.
- The value of the contract is £159,969 per annum meaning the potential cost of this decision will be £319,938 over a 24-month period (12 months plus 12 months)
- The contract delivers individual counselling services to parents and carers of Children aged 0 – 5 thus enabling children to live in safe and supportive environments
- The delivery of an early intervention and emotionally responsive service prevent unnecessary escalation to more targeted services
- The service allows parents to maximise emotional health and wellbeing enabling them to parent in the best way possible, supporting families to give children the best start in life
- The contract ensures that the most vulnerable children are protected by supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of their parents and carers

Recommendations

- a) Approve the extension of the contract for a period of 12 months at a cost of £159,969 with the option to extend for a further 12-month period (overall value over the 24 month period £319,938)

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The proposal will ensure the continuity of the provision of a city wide counselling service for parents and carers of young children aged 0 – 5 and continues to offer an early intervention service enabling families to provide children with the best start in life.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 2 Should this decision not be approved then there will be unnecessary escalation for families into more targeted services which will reduce the capacity of these services to meet the needs of every family referred to them.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 3 The current provider is happy to continue to deliver the service. There is a high demand for and level of engagement with the service. Through the contract monitoring process it has been evidenced that the provider is performing well and meeting all the targets set out within the contract.
- 4 The service lead has expressed that they wish to extend this contract and are very happy with the service that is being provided.

What are the resource implications?

- 5 The value of the contract will be £159, 969 per annum. This report is recommending the utilisation of the first of two possible 12 month extension periods.

What are the legal implications?

- 6 The decision is a significant operational decision and will not be subject to call in process under the Constitution. There are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information rules.

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

- 7 Some personal data will be processed as part of this contract delivery and privacy impact assessments will highlight how any risks will be mitigated

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

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

- 8 Providing a counselling service to parents and carers of young children aged 0 – 5 as an early intervention supports the emotional health and wellbeing of parents allowing them to provide the best possible care for their children and therefore encourages the best start in life for children and prevents escalation into more targeted services.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 9 No other options have been considered at this time. There are extension periods available for the contract and the service is performing well and meeting demand. To carry out a full competitive tender at this point would not represent best use of council funds or resources.

How will success be measured?

- 10 Northpoint Wellbeing will continue to have quarterly monitoring meetings to discuss performance, waiting lists and family outcomes.

What is the timetable for implementation?

- 11 The contract will start on 1 July 2022 for a period of 12 months

Appendices

- 12 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion Integration Screening

Background papers

- 13 None