

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services

To: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Subject: Young Carers Service Commissioning Update

Key decision: The contract award for the Young Carers Service is regarded as a key decision as it affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions and involves expenditure of > £1million over the life of the contract

Past pathway of paper: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee – 17 January 2017; Commissioning intentions for the Young Carers Service were considered within the Early Help Commissioning Intentions Report at Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee, 18 September 2015 and Cabinet, 12 October 2015

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: All

Summary:

A recent review of governance in the procurement of Early Help and Preventative Services contracts has identified the need to complete some actions to ensure full compliance with Kent County Council's governance process.

Early Help and Preventative Services procured a Young Carers Service in March 2016. The purpose of the service was to provide direct support to young carers and their families and raise awareness and train the wider workforce that come into contact with young carers.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member is asked to:

a) retrospectively make the award of the contract for the Young Carers Service to IMAGO COMMUNITY with the total lifetime value (i.e. 36 + 12 months) of £1,316,550.73, as set out in the Approval to Award Report (attached as Appendix 3 to this report); and

b) delegate the extension of the contract after three years to the Corporate Director Patrick Leeson (as Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks to ensure full compliance with Kent County Council governance for the award of the Young Carers Service contract. This service is currently providing support to children and young people and Kent County Council is paying for this service; the report is to satisfy the governance arrangements for this contract.
- 1.2 The Council has a statutory obligation to provide for support for young carers; under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014, Local Authorities must 'take reasonable steps to identify the extent to which there are young carers within their area who have needs for support' and are responsible for 'assessing whether a young carer within their area has needs for support and, if so, what those needs are'.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Early Help Commissioning Intentions for 2016/17 recognise that a new Young Carers Service could play a critical role in strengthening open access services and support for young people, thereby reducing demand for more intensive, specialist and costly services.
- 2.2 The Early Help and Preventative Services Commissioning Intentions for 2016/17 were approved via the following governance route:
 - Portfolio Board – 25 June 2015;
 - CAB – 22 July 2015 & September 2015;
 - DIVMT – Various;
 - Education Cabinet Committee - 18 September 2015;
 - Corporate Board – 28 September 2015; and
 - Full Cabinet Committee – 12 October 2015.
- 2.3 At the time of contract award Florence Kroll, former Director of Early Help and Preventative Services, was the budget holder. Stuart Collins, interim Direct of Early Help and Preventative Services is now the budget holder.
- 2.4 The Procurement Plan for the Young Carers Service was agreed at Procurement Board on 25 November 2015 (attached as Appendix 2 to this report). The procurement route was an open tender exercise. As the required service can be categorised under Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and as the value of the required service does exceed the higher threshold of €750,000 (£589,148 sterling equivalent), the Council had to advertise the opportunity on the Official Journal of the European Union ('OJEU').
- 2.5 Following an open tender procurement exercise, the authority to award the Young Carers Service contract was delegated to Peter Oakford as Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services. However this decision was outside of the Education and Young Peoples Services Cabinet Committee and

therefore a formal record of the decision to delegate authority to Peter Oakford is not available.

- 2.6 Imago, the Contractor for the Young Carers Service fully mobilised upon contract award and has been delivering the Contract in full since and as per the service specification since the 1 May 2016. Imago has been paid for the delivery of the Young Carers Service monthly in arrears since contract commencement in line with the payment schedule in the contract.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The total lifetime (i.e. 36 + 12 months) value of the contract is **£1,316,550.73**.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	+ Year 4
Mobilisation	£1,430.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct Support for Young Carers	£268,480.88	£295,271.76	£295,271.76	£295,271.76
Workforce Development	£56,459.52	£43,938.81	£30,213.12	£30,213.12
Total:	£326,370.40	£339,210.57	£325,484.88	£325,484.88

- 3.2 There are no specific financial implications attached to this contract. Budget savings were not attached to this contract in recognition of the need for a service with additional capacity to provide workforce development as well as direct support to young carers to ensure Kent County Council remains in compliance with the legislative requirement within the Care Act 2014 and the Children’s and Families Act 2014 to “take reasonable steps to identify the extent to which there are young carers within their area who have needs for support” and “assessing whether a young carer has needs for support, and if so what those needs are”.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 Kent County Council has a statutory responsibility as defined within the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014 to “take reasonable steps to identify the extent to which there are young carers within their area who have needs for support” and “assessing whether a young carer has needs for support, and if so what those needs are”.
- 4.2 Imago, the contractor, is continuing to deliver the Young Carers Service as per the contract and is being paid by Kent County Council accordingly. However the Young Carers Service contract remains unsealed and in order to protect both the contractor and the Council, action is required to enable the legal sealing of the contract.

5. Equalities implications

5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and it has determined that awarding the Young Carers Service contract would have a low impact on service users with protected characteristics.

6. Other corporate implications

6.1 There are no further corporate implications, other than those outlined above, relating to the need to ensure the Young Carers Service contract is sealed.

7. Conclusions

7.1 Following a competitive procurement process, the Kent Young Carers Service contract was awarded in March 2016, with a contract commencement date of 1 May 2016. Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, was awarded authority to award. The signed copy of the Approval to Award Report is attached as Appendix 2 to this report. However, due to an administrative error the full governance route was not followed. A retrospective formal decision is now required before Kent County Council legal services can seal the contract.

8. Recommendation(s)

The Cabinet Member is asked to:

a) retrospectively make the award of the contract for the Young Carers Service to IMAGO COMMUNITY with the total lifetime value (i.e. 36 + 12 months) of £1,316,550.73, as set out in the Approval to Award Report (attached as Appendix 3 to this report); and

b) delegate the extension of the contract after three years to the Corporate Director Patrick Leeson (as Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

9. Background Documents

10. Contact details

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