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Ask for: Emily Kennedy
Date: 24 November 2022

Dear Member

CHILDREN'S, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2022

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Tuesday, 29 November 2022 meeting of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee, the following report(s) that were unavailable when the agenda was published.

Agenda Item No

- 11 **Commissioned Youth Provision - Direct Award** (Pages 1 - 18)
- 12 **Commissioned Children's Centre Provision - Direct Award** (Pages 19 - 36)
- 13 **Local Children's Partnership Group Grant Funding** (Pages 37 - 42)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Watts', is written over a faint, light-colored signature line.

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel

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From: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services
Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 29 November 2022

Subject: Directly Award contracts for commissioned Youth services

Key decision Overall service value exceeds £1m and affects more than two Electoral Divisions.

Decision Number: 22/00107

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report provides the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee with the background and rationale of the proposal to directly award the nine providers of Commissioned Youth contracts 12 contracts in order to maintain current provision for a further one year.

In addition to KCC's direct delivery of Open Access Youth Services, contracts with Commissioned Providers have been in place since 2012 to support the Council's Open Access Offer. The Youth Service contracts have been through two formal procurements in 2012 and 2016 followed by a Direct Award in March 2022.

KCC's application to become a Family Hub Transition authority has been accepted by the Department for Education (DfE) and a Key Decision has been taken to agree to accept funding to help that transition. Further information about the allocation and distributions of that funding will be made under separate reporting arrangements to this committee in due course.

In order to accommodate the scoping and development of Family Hubs, where there will be a focus on a) the delivery of face-to-face provision, b) a wider network development and c) the development of a robust virtual offer, it would be unwise to proceed with a procurement which, at the point of implementation, may not be fully aligned to a newly formed approach for the Family Hub Model Framework development.

Due to significant rising costs, it is likely that the new one-year directly awarded contracts would require an increase in value. This would be part of commercial negotiations and agreed through the budget holder. All other terms and conditions of the contracts will remain the same with a new revised end date of 31 March 2024. This will allow the development of fit-for-purpose specifications that will compliment and support the Family Hub Model as it is rolled out across the county.

Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **consider** and **endorse** or **make recommendations** to the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services on the proposed decision to:

- A) **Extend** the Commissioned Youth Service Provision via a direct award to the seven current providers for a period of not more than 12 months (end 31 March 2024).
- B) **Delegate** authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, to negotiate, finalise and enter into the relevant contracts; and
- C) To take the necessary actions including but not limited to negotiating, finalising and entering into relevant legal agreements such as the direct award contract, as required to implement this decision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. KCC's offer of Open Access Services includes a directly delivered service and commissioned provision. These services work together seamlessly to engage young people requiring services across all 12 of the districts.
- 1.2. In addition to the 12 in-house Youth Hubs, there are seven providers delivering Youth Services across the 12 Districts for children aged 8-19 as well as those with disabilities up to 25. This typically includes group sessions on weekday evenings that are free at point of delivery with music, cooking, dance, sport and craft being common activities. Additionally, all providers give opportunities for young people to earn nationally recognised accreditations as well as being a safe space and trusted adult for many young people across the County.
- 1.3. Following a procurement and consultation process the contracts with the seven Youth Providers were tendered and awarded in 2016. They expired at the end of November 2021. A Key Decision (21/00086) was taken on 10 November 2021 to directly award contracts to the existing providers under the same terms and conditions to end on 31 March 2023.
- 1.4. The publication of the 2022/2023 budget consultation results developed into a review of some of our buildings under the Strategic Reset Programme. It was envisaged that the outcome of the project would inform future commissioning strategies and shaping the in-house offer.
- 1.5. Since the budget consultation the landscape, specifically for Open Access development, has changed further, with the DfE launching the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme.
- 1.6. In order to implement Family Hubs and develop best practice, the DfE invited Local Authorities to apply for 'Transitional' and subsequently 'Trailblazer' status. KCC has been successful in its application for Transition funding and is awaiting a response from DfE regarding the Trailblazer application. The Trailblazer

programme is dedicated to ensuring that a small number of Local Authorities will be able to achieve the minimum standards for best practice more quickly than other Local Authorities.

- 1.7. Having gained Transition Authority status in October 2022, KCC will be working in partnership with key stakeholders from across Health, Public Health, Social Care, Education and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to develop a coherent model that can be delivered over a three-year period to ensure that the needs of local communities are met.
- 1.8. The Family Hub concept is to provide families with a single access point to integrated family support services. Services will include those that we recognise in Kent as Early Help, linking across Integrated Children’s Services, Public Health and Health with emphasis on being a one stop shop for help and support for families with social, emotional, physical and financial needs.
- 1.9. The Family Hub approach and the need for a consistent model across the county will impact and change any future specifications for the commissioned elements of Children’s Centre provision.
- 1.10. To minimise duplication of provision and ensure that future specifications complement the Family Hub model being developed, the procurement of a new Youth offer needs to be delayed whilst a full consultation takes place to make sure that the voice of families and young people are at the heart of Family Hub development.
- 1.11. Following the consultation and development of the model, specifications can then be developed through a model of co-production, resulting in a procurement process starting in the Summer/Autumn of 2023.
- 1.12. To make sure that there is no gap in provision, whilst waiting for the results of the consultation and subsequent specification, one-year contracts would need to be awarded by way of Direct Award to existing providers. Whilst there is no basis to extend the existing contracts, PCR Regulations 72(1)(e) and (8) and Regulation 72(1)(c) would allow this by way of permitted modifications.
- 1.13. The Direct Award will be for a period of 12 months for all the commissioned Open Access Youth contracts.

2. Current Provision

2.1. The table below details the organisations impacted by this decision.

Service	Area	Provider	Current per annum contract value
Youth	Ashford	The Canterbury Academy	£95,749.80
	Canterbury		£109,331.40
	Dartford	Play Place	£87,990.00
	Dover	Pie Factory	£99,980.40
	Thanet		£136,947.96
	Folkestone & Hythe	Salus	£86,700.00

	Maidstone		£91,700.04
	Tonbridge & Malling		£81,799.92
	Tunbridge Wells		£75,799.92
	Gravesham	The Grand	£99,999.96
	Sevenoaks	West Kent Extra	£75,000.00
	Swale	Optivo	£133,950.00
	Totals		£1,174,949.40

- 2.4 The geographical areas covered by the commissioned Youth Services are allocated by Integrated Children's Services (ICS) Youth Hub Delivery Managers and often focus on our most rural and/or our most deprived areas in Kent, which is one of the reasons the additional value they add is so intrinsically important to the communities they serve.
- 2.5 All nine providers have continued to perform well against their KPIs throughout the life of the contracts. Commissioners work with all providers as part of contract monitoring to embed the voice of young people into service provision. This is monitored using a Compliments, Comments and Complaints log, with the focus being on what difference and/or change has been made to improve provision as a result of feedback.

3. Commissioning Intentions

- 3.1. See Appendix One for details of the timeline of commissioning activity since 2012.
- 3.2. Planning for the recommissioning of services commenced in March 2021. The main driver was to review collectively the whole Open Access Offer to respond to what we learned through Covid, with the addition of the Digital offer.
- 3.3. The review was stalled due to a range of factors impacting on the commissioning intentions. These include the feedback from the 2022/2023 budget public consultation that stated we should look at using our community buildings differently and the launch of the Family Hub Programme.

4. Other Considerations

- 4.1. The delivery of Open Access provision is not statutory, however, KCC has a long history of maintaining an Open Access offer when other Local Authorities have cut provision.
- 4.2. The current providers of the Youth Services have been working with KCC to deliver services for over 10-years. Commissioners have worked extensively with the wider market since 2012 to understand the landscape of providers and both capability and capacity to provide a district-wide offer.
- 4.3. Since the last major procurement of these contracts in 2016, the provider landscape in Kent has not changed dramatically and there are no new youth providers entering the market that have the capability of delivering a district wide offer.

- 4.4. If new contracts were to be procured, TUPE would apply. With such a short time frame associated with the new contracts any new entrant to the market would likely see this as unattractive and high risk, therefore unlikely to bid. There has been little or no notable change within the geographical areas of provision since the last round of procurements, as such there would be no advantage in developing a new procurement process to assess the same providers against a largely unchanged market.
- 4.5. For any provider coming into the market there would be challenges relating to buildings, access, and reputation. It is considered that with the time constraints in place, it would be impossible for a new provider to come in and offer a seamless service provision.
- 4.6. The Direct Award is proposed to set contracts on the same terms and conditions to the end of March 2024 with a potential increase in financial envelope, subject to commercial negotiation.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. This service will continue to be funded from the revenue KCC base budget reported against the Early Help and Preventative Services Key Service in the Budget Book. Future funding opportunities will be explored as part of the development of the family hub model framework.
- 5.2. It is anticipated that services will be delivered in line with the existing contract values with an inflationary increase built into the pricing assumption for 23-24 at a maximum of 5%. Any increase in contract values will be mitigated by a reduction in delivery or funded from efficiencies in other areas of open access.
- 5.3. Financial risks associated with this proposal are expected to be low. Potential pressures will be managed through ongoing contract management for the commissioned service.
- 5.4. The cost of procurement for the Direct Award for both contracts is limited as the terms and conditions will not change and will be largely a desk-based exercise in completing relevant paperwork. This process can be managed by a Commissioner and a Commercial Commissioning Assistant and therefore should not exceed £800.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. Known as the Youth Services Duty, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to “secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people.” This would be maintained by the continuation of internal provision.
- 6.2. An implication of this approach is that the council is operating outside of Spending the Council’s Money in that the contracts should have been the subject of being competitively tendered.
- 6.3. The risk has been mitigated through knowledge of the market and whether there are other organisations that could deliver the services at scale and pace. This

satisfies the requirements as set out in Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) clause 72(1)(e) and clause 72(8) which permits modifications to contracts so long as not materially different.

7. Equalities implications

7.1. None of the protected characteristics would be adversely impacted. Equality Impact Assessment screening has been completed and found a full action plan was not required. This will continue to be developed and reviewed as commissioning activity progresses.

7.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached in Appendix 2.

8. Governance

8.1. Accountability of Youth services sits with the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education. Responsibility sits with the Director of Integrated Children's Services, North and West Kent (EHPS Lead)

9. Conclusions

9.1. For reasons stated above, approving this action will:

- Continue the provision of support for Children Families and Young People.
- Extend well performing contracts to enable the maintenance of Open Access services provision whilst new ways of working will be consulted on with Members, staff and the general public.
- Maintain levels of support for the local community, particularly areas with high levels of deprivation.
- Give stability to providers ensuring the continuation of additional Social Value that extends beyond catchment areas.
- Continuation of the virtual offer which providers have worked together to produce and is offered across the county.
- Support the development of KCCs Family Hub model and work to develop specifications that both compliment and embed provision across the county.

10. Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **consider** and **endorse** or **make recommendations** to the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services on the proposed decision to:

A) Extend the Commissioned Youth Service Provision via a direct award to the seven current providers for a period of not more than 12 months (end 31 March 2024).

B) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, to negotiate, finalise and enter into the relevant contracts; and

C) To take the necessary actions including but not limited to negotiating, finalising and entering into relevant legal agreements such as the direct award contract, as required to implement this decision.

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Commissioning Activity
Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment

12. Background Documents

Record of Decision 21/00086 Commissioned Open Access Provision for Youth Services and Children’s Centres:

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2529>

13. Contact details

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Appendix one: Commissioning Activity

Service	Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Youth		47 contracts awarded for 3yrs to deliver OA Youth work across 22 organisations. Total budget £1.6m	Contract in place	Contract in place	Extension given for 12 months to undertake procurement for new commissioned provision	Procurement Process undertaken and 12 district based contracts awarded for 5 years across 10 providers. Total annual budget £1.2m	Contract in place	Contract in place Plus a closed procurement for 3 districts to existing providers following the hand back of 3 contracts	Contract in place	Contract in place	Direct Award of contracts for 1 yr. due to reasons of extreme urgency and supporting local VCS groups in their recovery following pandemic	Direct Award of contracts for 1 yr. given in order to reshape future provision in line with Council Budget Consultation

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services

DECISION NO:

22/00107

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Commissioned Youth Provision - Direct Award

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services, I propose to

A) Extend the Commissioned Youth Service Provision via a direct award to the seven current providers for a period of not more than 12 months (end 31 March 2024).

B) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services, to negotiate, finalise and enter into the relevant contracts; and

C) To take the necessary actions including but not limited to negotiating, finalising and entering into relevant legal agreements such as the direct award contract, as required to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The contracts have been in place since 2016 with one direct award previously issued under extreme urgency following the budget consultation and associated impact on wider service provision.

A further direct award is required to minimise duplication of provision following the development of a Family Hub model and ensuring that there is no break in provision. Any procurement of a new commissioned youth offer needs to be delayed whilst a full consultation takes place to make sure that the voice of families and young people are at the heart of Family Hub development. The value for an additional direct award is £1.2m taking the total spend since the last formal procurement to £12.75m across the seven-year life of provision.

Background:

- In addition to the 12 in-house Youth Hubs, there are seven providers delivering Youth Services across the 12 Districts for children aged 8-19 as well as those with disabilities up to 25. Contracts with Commissioned Providers have been in place since 2016 to support the Council’s Open Access Offer
- Known as the Youth Services Duty, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to “secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time activities for young people.”
- Following a procurement and consultation process the contracts with the seven Youth Providers were tendered and awarded in 2016. They expired at the end of November 2021. A

Key Decision (21/00086) was taken on 10 November 2021 to directly award contracts to the existing providers under the same terms and conditions to end on 31 March 2023.

- The table below details the organisations impacted by this decision.

Service	Area	Provider	Current per annum contract value
Youth	Ashford	The Canterbury Academy	£95,749.80
	Canterbury		£109,331.40
	Dartford	Play Place	£87,990.00
	Dover	Pie Factory	£99,980.40
	Thanet		£136,947.96
	Folkestone & Hythe	Salus	£86,700.00
	Maidstone		£91,700.04
	Tonbridge & Malling		£81,799.92
	Tunbridge Wells		£75,799.92
	Gravesham	The Grand	£99,999.96
	Sevenoaks	West Kent Extra	£75,000.00
	Swale	Optivo	£133,950.00
Totals			£1,174,949.40

- Despite the impact of Covid-19, providers have continued to be flexible in their approach to provision and perform well against a challenging backdrop.
- Since the implementation of all new contracts, the DfE have launched the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme.
- To minimise duplication of provision and ensure that future specifications compliment the Family Hub model being developed, the procurement of a new Youth offer needs to be delayed whilst a full consultation takes place to make sure that the voice of families and young people are at the heart of Family Hub development.

Financial implications

- This service will be funded from within the existing revenue KCC base budget reported against the Early Help and Preventative Services Key Service in the Budget Book.
- Any commercial negotiation in addition to the existing contract values would be subject to budget and Director approval.
- Financial risks associated with this proposal are expected to be low. Potential pressures will be managed through ongoing contract management for the commissioned service.
- The commissioning costs for the Direct Award for contracts are limited as the terms and conditions will not change and will be largely a desk-based exercise in completing relevant paperwork. This process can be managed by a Commissioner and a Commissioning and Commercial Assistant and therefore should not exceed £800.

Legal implications

- Known as the Youth Services Duty, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to “secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational leisure-time

activities for young people.”

- An implication of this approach is that the council is operating outside of Spending the Council’s Money in that the contracts should have been the subject of being competitively tendered.
- The risk has been mitigated through knowledge of the market and whether there are other organisations that could deliver the services at scale and pace. The situation satisfies the requirements as set out in Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) clause 72(1)(e) and clause 72(8) which permits modifications to contracts so long as not materially different.

Equalities implications

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been completed and has concluded that the proposed decision does not present any adverse equality impact.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services, I propose to

- A) Extend the Commissioned Youth Service Provision via a direct award to the seven current providers for a period of not more than 12 months (end 31 March 2024).
- B) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services, to negotiate, finalise and enter into the relevant contracts; and
- C) To take the necessary actions including but not limited to negotiating, finalising and entering into relevant legal agreements such as the direct award contract, as required to implement this decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- Option 1: Do nothing - The contract ends 31 March 2023. - KCC will lose a vital element of Open Access provision.
- Option 2: Initiate a procurement exercise for new provision – Any new provision will not necessarily align with the new Family Hub approach that will be worked up over the coming months and potentially render contracts unfit for purpose post award.
- Option 3: Initiate a procurement for a one-year contract: The landscape of providers has not wildly changed since initial contract award, any new providers would not find a one-year contract attractive, there would be a gap in provision due to contract mobilisation and a procurement exercise would cost the same (for both the Local Authority and providers) regardless of length of contract. This would be a costly exercise for potentially no change or providers potentially deciding not to bid as it was not financially viable to do so, leaving a gaps and inevitable postcode lottery of service provision.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

.....
signed

.....
date

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EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Commissioned Childrens Centres and Youth Services - open access

Responsible Officer

Faye Don - ST SC

Type of Activity**Service Change**

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

Yes - To directly award contracts to the current providers of the Youth services and commissioned Children's Centres for 12 months, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. This will ensure there is continuity of provision for children and young people over this period and allow for join up between commissioned provision and the outcome of the review of the internal model.

Accountability and Responsibility**Directorate**

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Integrated Children's Services - Early Help and Preventative Services

Responsible Head of Service

Christy Holden - ST SC

Responsible Director

Stuart Collins - CY EHPS (Early Help and Preventative Services)

Aims and Objectives**Context**

Within the KCC Open Access portfolio, there are.

- 12 (district based) Open Access Youth contracts delivered by seven providers (all of which are small/medium Kent based VCS organisations, except for one youth contract which is delivered by a Housing Association, which has a strong charitable arm)
- Two centre-based Children's Centre provisions delivered by two providers in Thanet and Swale (both of whom are not for profit charitable organisations)

The model of delivery of youth services varies across the County and all providers offer open access groups in buildings along with a detached presence across their district. Providers work with the local Youth Hub Delivery Manager (employed by KCC) to maximise resource across the commissioned and in-house open access services working to minimise any cross-over or duplication of provision.

The Children's Centres, support children and families within an agreed catchment area as a key component of the wider Children's Centre offer within the districts in which they reside. Each centre offers different services, including:

- childcare
- early education
- training or finding a new job
- antenatal classes
- baby clinics
- support with breastfeeding
- support with parenting and speech and language
- drop-in sessions for parents and children
- services for children with special needs and disabilities
- opportunities for families to get involved with volunteering and designing services

Integrated Children’s Services are currently scoping a review into the future provision of Open Access in line with the new government initiative for Family Hubs. This will look across all elements of the provision including both the Internal Youth provision, Internal Children Centres, the two commissioned Children’s Centres and the seven Commissioned Youth providers. Whilst the full scope of the review has not yet been finalised, it is expected to have an impact on the commissioned open access services and therefore future specifications for delivery

Aims and objectives

The Service will support the outcomes for the Early Help and Preventative Services and family cohesion/preservation by enabling children and young people:

- To become more resilient
- To have better emotional health, health, and wellbeing
- By supporting the attainment of educational achievement

Summary of equality and impact

Initial screening suggests that none of the protected characteristics will be impacted by directly awarding these contracts with the same specification and terms and conditions.

As part of the Terms and Conditions of the contract the providers have been supporting KCC to promote equality and diversity under the Equality act 2010 by doing the following.

- Planning inclusive services that meet the needs of the people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Consulting with families from protected groups proportionately within the area served by the service
- Implementing inclusive services, consider specialist service (e.g. culturally specific) where these are necessary to meet the needs of protected groups.
- Conducting annual equality monitoring of service users,

This EqIA found that the impact of Children Centres and Youth Service to be positive across all groups, therefore, supports the 2010 Equality Act

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes
Have you consulted with stakeholders?
Yes
Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?
We have consulted the following as part of this EQIA Young people/service users, who are integral to the planning and evaluation of the youth service, evidence of this can be found on the Compliment, Comments and Complaints logs which are collected as part of the providers Contract Management. Kent County Council staff from the Children, Young People and Education Directorate, including Director of Integrated Services, Area Service Manager Open Access, Youth Hub Managers and Senior Early Help Workers Engagement with Stakeholders and Providers took place in the form of meetings between commissioners and current providers
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?
Yes
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?
Yes
Section C – Impact
Who may be impacted by the activity?
Service Users/clients Service users/clients
Staff Staff/Volunteers
Residents/Communities/Citizens Residents/communities/citizens
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
The impact of youth work services in Kent enables young people to demonstrate an increase in the social and emotional capabilities which supports them in achieving outcomes and make positive transitions from childhood to adulthood. These capabilities (A framework of outcomes for young people, The Young Foundation 2012) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to communicate effectively • developing self-confidence and agency • developing resilience and determination • learning to manage their feelings and relationships well • developing creativity, planning and problem-solving skills • developing leadership skills <p>There are many ways Children’s Centres positively impact on service users but by attending a children’s centre evidence* (DfE, The impact of children’s centres: studying the effects of children’s centres in promoting better outcomes for young children and their families, December 2015) has shown greater impacts were detected for mother and family outcomes which includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child development and school readiness • Parenting aspirations and parenting skills, this especially improved parenting skills of families living in the most disadvantage communities

- Improved mother’s mental health
- Child and family health and life chances

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?

No

Details of negative impacts for Age

Not Applicable

Mitigating Actions for Age

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

Not Applicable

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?

No

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Disability

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Disability

Not Applicable

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex

Are there negative impacts for Sex

No

Details of negative impacts for Sex

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Sex

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Sex

Not Applicable

22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

No

Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race

Are there negative impacts for Race

No

Negative impacts for Race

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Race

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race

Not Applicable

24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief

Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable

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From: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services
Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 29 November 2022

Subject: Commissioned Children's Centre Provision - Direct Award

Key decision Affects two electoral divisions, expenditure over £1m

Decision Number: 22/00108

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Sheppey and Margate

Summary: This report provides the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee with the background and rationale of the proposal to directly award contracts to the two Commissioned Children's Centres to maintain current provision for a further one year.

In addition to the Council's in-house delivery of Children's Centres, Kent County Council (KCC) commissions two Children's Centres one in Swale and one in Thanet.

KCC's application to become a Family Hub Transition authority has been accepted by the Department for Education (DfE) and a Key Decision has been taken to agree to accept funding to help that transition. Further information about the allocation and distributions of that funding will be made under separate reporting arrangements to this committee in due course.

In order to accommodate the scoping and development of Family Hubs, where there will be a focus on a) the delivery of face-to-face provision, b) a wider network development and c) the development of a robust virtual offer, it would be unwise to proceed with a procurement which, at the point of implementation, may not be fully aligned to a newly formed approach for the Family Hub Model Framework development.

Due to significant rising costs, it is likely that the new one-year directly awarded contracts would require an increase in value. This would be part of commercial negotiations and agreed through the budget holder. All other terms and conditions of the contracts will remain the same with a new revised end date of 31 March 2024. This will allow the development of fit-for-purpose specifications that will compliment and support the Family Hub Model as it is rolled out across the county.

Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **consider** and **endorse** or **make recommendations** to the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services on the proposed decision to:

- a) **Extend** the Children's Centres services currently provided by Millmead and Seashells via a direct award for a period of not more than 12 months (end 31 March 2024);
- b) **Delegate** authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for ICS (Integrated Children's Services), to negotiate, finalise and enter into the contracts with Millmead and Seashells; and
- c) To take the necessary actions including but not limited to negotiating, finalising and entering into relevant legal agreements such as the direct award contract, as required to implement this decision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The contracts for the two Commissioned Children's Centres were tendered and awarded in 2020 for a period of 12 months. The contract was subject to a Direct Award from April 2021 to March 2022 under Covid-19 guidance. A Key Decision (21/00086) was taken on 10 November 2021 to directly award contracts to the existing providers for a further year and end on 31 March 2023.
- 1.2. The publication of the 2022/2023 budget consultation results developed into a review of some of our buildings under the Strategic Reset Programme. It was envisaged that the outcome of the project would inform future commissioning strategies and shaping the in-house offer.
- 1.3. Since the budget consultation, the landscape, specifically for Open Access development, has changed further, with the DfE launching the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme.
- 1.4. In order to implement Family Hubs and develop best practice, the DfE invited Local Authorities to apply for 'Transitional' and subsequently 'Trailblazer' status. KCC has been successful in its application for Transition funding and is awaiting a response from DfE regarding the Trailblazer application. The Trailblazer programme is dedicated to ensuring that a small number of Local Authorities will be able to achieve the minimum standards for best practice more quickly than other Local Authorities.
- 1.3. Having gained Transition Authority status in October 2022, KCC will be working in partnership with key stakeholders from across Health, Social Care, Education and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to develop a coherent model that can be delivered over a three-year period to ensure that the needs of local communities are met.
- 1.4. The Family Hub concept is to provide families with a single access point to integrated family support services. Services will include those that we recognise in Kent as Early Help, linking across Integrated Children's Services, Public Health and Health with emphasis on being a one stop shop for help and support for families with social, emotional, physical and financial needs.

- 1.5 The Family Hub approach and the need for a consistent model across the county will impact and change any future specifications for the commissioned elements of Children’s Centre provision.
- 1.6 To minimise duplication of provision and ensure that future specifications compliment the Family Hub model being developed, the procurement of new commissioned Children Centre contracts needs to be delayed whilst a full consultation takes place to make sure that the voice of families and young people are at the heart of Family Hub development.
- 1.7 Following the consultation and development of the model, specifications can then be developed through a model of co-production, resulting in a procurement process starting in the Summer/Autumn of 2023.
- 1.8 To make sure that there is no gap in provision, whilst waiting for the results of the consultation and subsequent specification, one-year contracts would need to be awarded by way of Direct Award to existing providers. Whilst there is no basis to extend the existing contracts, PCR Regulations 72(1)(e) and (8) and Regulation 72(1)(c) would allow this by way of permitted modifications.
- 1.9 The Direct Award will be for a period of 12 months for both of the commissioned Children’s Centres.

2 Current Provision

- 2.3 The table below shows the contracts currently in place, their value and area covered:

Provider	Area	Contract End Date	Contract value per Annum
Millmead	Margate	31/03/2022	£222,127.44
Seashells	Sheerness	31/03/2022	£204,302.16
Totals			£426,429.60

- 2.4 The Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) served by the commissioned Children’s Centres (Millmead and Seashells) are in two of the most deprived areas in Kent, and indeed the country. Deprivation data from 2019 shows that one of the LSOA’s within Sheerness, served by Seashells, is 48th out of 32,844 LSOA’s nationally – within the top 0.2 % of most deprived LSOA’s in any part of the country. Similarly, one of the LSOA’s within the Dane Valley Ward - served by Millmead – is the 8th most deprived within Kent and the 423rd nationally, within the top 1.3% of most deprived LSOA’s nationally.
- 2.5 Providers have worked with commissioners through contract management approaches to demonstrate how they have developed projects and generated other funding streams to assist their core offer. These innovations have increased their added Social Value. Social Value is one of the factors monitored and measured through contract management meetings every quarter.

- 2.6 The providers have continued to perform well against their KPIs throughout the life of the contracts. Commissioners work with both providers as part of contract monitoring to embed the voice of families and children into service provision. This is monitored using a Compliments, Comments and Complaints log, with the main focus being on what difference and/or change has been made to improve provision as a result of feedback.

3 Commissioning Intentions

- 3.1 See Appendix One for details of the timeline of commissioning activity since 2012.
- 3.2 Planning for the recommissioning of services commenced in March 2021. The main driver was to review collectively the whole Open Access Offer to respond to what we learned through Covid, with the addition of the Digital offer.
- 3.3 The review was stalled due to a range of factors impacting on the commissioning intentions. These include the feedback from the 2022/2023 budget public consultation that stated we should look at using our community buildings differently and the launch of the Family Hub Programme.

4 Other Considerations

- 4.1 The Children's Centre procurement process in 2020 and the one previously in 2018 had only two providers that were able to deliver in the geographical areas required. The market has not significantly changed since that date. It is also important to note that both providers have buildings situated in the heart of the areas served.
- 4.2 In all contracts TUPE would apply and with such a short time frame associated with the new contracts any new entrant to the market would likely see this as unattractive and high risk, therefore unlikely to bid.
- 4.3 Taking the above points into account, there would be no advantage in developing a new procurement process to assess the same providers against a largely unchanged market.
- 4.4 For any provider coming into the market there would be challenges relating to buildings, access, and reputation. It is considered that with the time constraints in place, it would be impossible for a new provider to come in and offer a seamless service provision.
- 4.5 The Direct Award is proposed to set contracts on the same terms and conditions to the end of March 2024 with any potential increase in financial envelope being subject to commercial negotiation.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 This service will continue to be funded from the revenue KCC base budget reported against the Early Help and Preventative Services Key Service in the Budget Book. Future funding opportunities will be explored as part of the development of the family hub model framework.

- 5.2 It is anticipated that services will be delivered in line with the existing contract values with an inflationary increase built into the pricing assumption for 23-24 at a maximum of 5%. Any increase in contract values will be mitigated by a reduction in delivery or funded from efficiencies in other areas of open access.
- 5.3 Financial risks associated with this proposal are expected to be low. Potential pressures will be managed through ongoing contract management for the commissioned service.
- 5.4 The cost of procurement for the Direct Award for both contracts is limited as the terms and conditions will not change and will be largely a desk-based exercise in completing relevant paperwork. This process can be managed by a Commissioner and a Commercial Commissioning Assistant and therefore should not exceed £800.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 An implication of this approach is that the council is operating outside of Spending the Council's Money in that the contracts should have been the subject of being competitively tendered.
- 6.2 The risk has been mitigated through knowledge of the market and whether there are other organisations that could deliver the services at scale and pace. The situation satisfies the requirements as set out in Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) clause 72(1)(e) and clause 72(8) which permits modifications to contracts so long as not materially different.

7 Equalities implications

- 7.1 None of the protected characteristics would be adversely impacted. Equality Impact Assessment screening has been completed and found a full action plan was not required. This will continue to be developed and reviewed as commissioning activity progresses.
- 7.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) can be seen in Appendix 2.

8 Governance

- 8.1 Accountability of the service sits with the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education. Director of Integrated Children's Services, North and West Kent (EHPS Lead)

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 For reasons stated above, approving this action will:
- Continue the provision of support for Children Families and Young People.
 - Extend well performing contracts to enable the maintenance of Open Access services provision whilst new ways of working will be consulted on with Members, staff and the general public.
 - Maintain levels of support for the local community, particularly areas with high levels of deprivation.

- Give stability to providers ensuring the continuation of additional Social Value that extends beyond catchment areas.
- Continuation of the virtual offer which providers have worked together to produce and is offered across the county.
- Support the development of KCC's Family Hub model and work to develop specifications that both compliment and embed provision across the county.

10 Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **consider** and **endorse** or **make recommendations** to the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services on the proposed decision to:

- Extend** the Children's Centres services currently provided by Millmead and Seashells via a direct award for a period of not more than 12 months (end 31 March 2024);
- Delegate** authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for ICS (Integrated Children's Services), to negotiate, finalise and enter into the contracts with Millmead and Seashells; and
- To take the necessary actions including but not limited to negotiating, finalising and entering into relevant legal agreements such as the direct award contract, as required to implement this decision.

11 Appendices

- 1 – Commissioning Activity
- 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

12 Background Documents

Record of Decision 21/00086 Commissioned Open Access Provision for Youth Services and Children's Centres:

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2529>

13 Contact details

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Appendix one: Commissioning Activity

Service	Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Childrens Centres		Historical contracts/Service Level Agreements in place for 6 commissioned Childrens Centres Total Annual budget £1,123,830	Contracts in place	Contracts extended for two years via a single tender action	Contract in place	Contracts extended for a further 6 months to enable the procurement of a new provision	Reduction of 6 commissioned centres to 2. Open procurement of 2 centres in Thanet and Swale. Total annual budget £424,500	Contracts in place	Contracts in place	Open procurement for a 1yr commission 2 centres in Thanet and Swale. Total annual budget £424,500	Direct award of contract for 1yr due to reasons of extreme urgency and supporting local VCS groups in their recovery following the pandemic	Direct Award of contracts for 1 yr. given to reshape future provision in line with Council Budget Consultation

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services

DECISION NO:

22/00108

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Commissioned Childrens Centre Provision - Direct Award

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services, I propose to

- A) Extend the Children’s Centres services currently provided by Millmead and Seashells via a direct award for a period of not more than 12 months (end 31 March 2024).
- B) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for ICS (Integrated Children’s Services), to negotiate, finalise and enter into the contracts with Millmead and Seashells; and
- C) To take the necessary actions including but not limited to negotiating, finalising and entering into relevant legal agreements such as the direct award contract, as required to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The contracts have been in place since 2019 with two direct awards previously issued. One under Covid guidance and one under extreme urgency following the budget consultation and associated impact on wider service provision.

A further direct award is required to minimise duplication of provision and ensure that future specifications compliment the Family Hub model being developed. Any procurement of a new commissioned Children’s Centre offer needs to be delayed whilst a full consultation takes place to make sure that the voice of families and young people are at the heart of Family Hub development. The value for an additional direct award is £426,429.60 taking the total spend since the last formal procurement to £2.21m, therefore in excess of the £1m boundary for a key decision.

Background:

- In addition to KCC’s direct delivery of Open Access Childrens Centres, contracts with Commissioned Providers have been in place since 2012 to support the Council’s Open Access Offer
- There is no statutory requirement to provide these services, however their contribution to good outcomes to Children and their Families is well recognised.
- The contracts for the two Commissioned Children’s Centres were tendered and awarded in 2020 for a period of 12 months. The contract was subject to a Direct Award from April 2021 to March 2022 under Covid-19 guidance. A Key Decision (21/00086) was taken on 10 November 2021 to directly award contracts to the existing providers for a further year and end on 31 March 2023.

Provider	Area	Contract End Date	Contract value per Annum
Millmead	Margate	31/03/2022	£222,127.44
Seashells	Sheerness	31/03/2022	£204,302.16
Totals			£426,429.60

- Despite the impact of Covid-19, providers have continued to be flexible in their approach to provision and perform well against a challenging backdrop.
- Since the implementation of all new contracts in April 2021, the DfE have launched the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme.
- To minimise duplication of provision and ensure that future specifications compliment the Family Hub model being developed, the procurement of new commissioned Children's Centre contracts needs to be delayed whilst a full consultation takes place to make sure that the voice of families and young people are at the heart of Family Hub development.

Financial implications

- This service will be funded from within the existing revenue KCC base budget reported against the Early Help and Preventative Services Key Service in the Budget Book.
- Any commercial negotiation in addition to the existing contract values would be subject to budget and Director approval.
- Financial risks associated with this proposal are expected to be low. Potential pressures will be managed through ongoing contract management for the commissioned service.

Legal implications

- An implication of this approach is that the council is operating outside of Spending the Council's Money in that the contracts should have been the subject of being competitively tendered.
- The risk has been mitigated through knowledge of the market and whether there are other organisations that could deliver the services at scale and pace. The situation satisfies the requirements as set out in Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) clause 72(1)(e) and clause 72(8) which permits modifications to contracts so long as not materially different.

Equalities implications

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been completed and has concluded that the proposed decision does not present any adverse equality impact.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee will consider, endorse or make

recommendations on the proposed decision at its meeting on 29 November 2022.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Option 1: Do nothing - The contract ends 31 March 2023. - KCC will lose a vital element of OA provision.

Option 2: Initiate a procurement exercise for new provision – Any new provision will not necessarily align with the new Family Hub approach that will be worked up over the coming months and potentially render contracts unfit for purpose post award.

Option 3: Initiate a procurement for a one-year contract: The landscape of providers has not wildly changed since initial contract award, any new providers would not find a one year contract attractive, there would be a gap in provision due to contract mobilisation and a procurement exercise would cost the same (for both the LA and providers) regardless of length of contract. This would be a costly exercise for potentially no change or providers potentially deciding not to bid as it was not financially viable to do so, leaving a gaps and inevitable postcode lottery of service provision.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

.....
signed

.....
date

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EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Commissioned Childrens Centres and Youth Services - open access

Responsible Officer

Faye Don - ST SC

Type of Activity**Service Change**

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

Yes - To directly award contracts to the current providers of the Youth services and commissioned Children's Centres for 12 months, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. This will ensure there is continuity of provision for children and young people over this period and allow for join up between commissioned provision and the outcome of the review of the internal model.

Accountability and Responsibility**Directorate**

Children Young People and Education

Responsible Service

Integrated Children's Services - Early Help and Preventative Services

Responsible Head of Service

Christy Holden - ST SC

Responsible Director

Stuart Collins - CY EHPS (Early Help and Preventative Services)

Aims and Objectives**Context**

Within the KCC Open Access portfolio, there are.

- 12 (district based) Open Access Youth contracts delivered by seven providers (all of which are small/medium Kent based VCS organisations, except for one youth contract which is delivered by a Housing Association, which has a strong charitable arm)
- Two centre-based Children's Centre provisions delivered by two providers in Thanet and Swale (both of whom are not for profit charitable organisations)

The model of delivery of youth services varies across the County and all providers offer open access groups in buildings along with a detached presence across their district. Providers work with the local Youth Hub Delivery Manager (employed by KCC) to maximise resource across the commissioned and in-house open access services working to minimise any cross-over or duplication of provision.

The Children's Centres, support children and families within an agreed catchment area as a key component of the wider Children's Centre offer within the districts in which they reside. Each centre offers different services, including:

- childcare
- early education
- training or finding a new job
- antenatal classes
- baby clinics
- support with breastfeeding
- support with parenting and speech and language
- drop-in sessions for parents and children
- services for children with special needs and disabilities
- opportunities for families to get involved with volunteering and designing services

Integrated Children’s Services are currently scoping a review into the future provision of Open Access in line with the new government initiative for Family Hubs. This will look across all elements of the provision including both the Internal Youth provision, Internal Children Centres, the two commissioned Children’s Centres and the seven Commissioned Youth providers. Whilst the full scope of the review has not yet been finalised, it is expected to have an impact on the commissioned open access services and therefore future specifications for delivery

Aims and objectives

The Service will support the outcomes for the Early Help and Preventative Services and family cohesion/preservation by enabling children and young people:

- To become more resilient
- To have better emotional health, health, and wellbeing
- By supporting the attainment of educational achievement

Summary of equality and impact

Initial screening suggests that none of the protected characteristics will be impacted by directly awarding these contracts with the same specification and terms and conditions.

As part of the Terms and Conditions of the contract the providers have been supporting KCC to promote equality and diversity under the Equality act 2010 by doing the following.

- Planning inclusive services that meet the needs of the people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Consulting with families from protected groups proportionately within the area served by the service
- Implementing inclusive services, consider specialist service (e.g. culturally specific) where these are necessary to meet the needs of protected groups.
- Conducting annual equality monitoring of service users,

This EqIA found that the impact of Children Centres and Youth Service to be positive across all groups, therefore, supports the 2010 Equality Act

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes
Have you consulted with stakeholders?
Yes
Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?
<p>We have consulted the following as part of this EQIA</p> <p>Young people/service users, who are integral to the planning and evaluation of the youth service, evidence of this can be found on the Compliment, Comments and Complaints logs which are collected as part of the providers Contract Management.</p> <p>Kent County Council staff from the Children, Young People and Education Directorate, including Director of Integrated Services, Area Service Manager Open Access, Youth Hub Managers and Senior Early Help Workers</p> <p>Engagement with Stakeholders and Providers took place in the form of meetings between commissioners and current providers</p>
Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?
Yes
Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?
Yes
Section C – Impact
Who may be impacted by the activity?
<p>Service Users/clients Service users/clients</p>
<p>Staff Staff/Volunteers</p>
<p>Residents/Communities/Citizens Residents/communities/citizens</p>
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
<p>The impact of youth work services in Kent enables young people to demonstrate an increase in the social and emotional capabilities which supports them in achieving outcomes and make positive transitions from childhood to adulthood. These capabilities (A framework of outcomes for young people, The Young Foundation 2012) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to communicate effectively • developing self-confidence and agency • developing resilience and determination • learning to manage their feelings and relationships well • developing creativity, planning and problem-solving skills • developing leadership skills <p>There are many ways Children’s Centres positively impact on service users but by attending a children’s centre evidence* (DfE, The impact of children’s centres: studying the effects of children’s centres in promoting better outcomes for young children and their families, December 2015) has shown greater impacts were detected for mother and family outcomes which includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child development and school readiness • Parenting aspirations and parenting skills, this especially improved parenting skills of families living in the most disadvantage communities

- Improved mother’s mental health
- Child and family health and life chances

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?

No

Details of negative impacts for Age

Not Applicable

Mitigating Actions for Age

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

Not Applicable

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?

No

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Disability

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Disability

Not Applicable

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex

Are there negative impacts for Sex

No

Details of negative impacts for Sex

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Sex

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Sex

Not Applicable

22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

No

Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race

Are there negative impacts for Race

No

Negative impacts for Race

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Race

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race

Not Applicable

24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief

Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable

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From: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services
Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 29 November 2022

Subject: **Local Children's Partnership Group Grants Programme**

Decision Number: **22/00109**

Key decision Overall service value exceeds £1m and affects more than two Electoral Divisions.

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: None

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report provides the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee with the background and rationale of the proposal to cease the Local Children's Partnership Group Grants funding stream and not initiate the 2023/24 round of grants.

Since 2016, the **Local Children's Partnership Group (LCPG) Grants Programme** has been in place to allow grassroots VCS organisations funding for projects and programmes that support children, young people and families at a community level whilst tackling local priorities set out by the Partnership Board.

The current cost of living crisis, rising inflation and shrinking budgets has required the Local Authority to look at all areas of spend. With no statutory requirement to provide these and with existing grants ending in March 2023, by ceasing these funding streams an indicative savings of approximately £600k could be achieved for the 2023/2024 financial year.

Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **consider** and **endorse** or **make recommendations** to the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services on the proposed decision to:

- a) **Cease** the funding for the Local Children's Partnership Group (LCPG) Grants programme from the end of the 2022/23 financial year; and
- b) **Delegate** authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to take relevant actions including but not limited to entering into legal agreements as necessary to implement this decision.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The LCPG Grants Programme is a county-wide pot of £600,000, divided between the 12 districts, to fund projects to meet local need and support the priorities set out by each of the LCPG's. Projects have been delivered by grassroots organisations that often fail to gain funding through formal procurement due to their size and capacity in putting together winning bids.
- 1.2. The nature of the LCPG grants support smaller organisations to reach funding opportunities which further supports local communities, encourages delivery through lived experience and enables a greater emphasis on social value that other funding opportunities find hard to realise. The impact on the Voluntary Sector as a result of this decision cannot be known.

2. Current Provision

- 2.1. The LCPG Grants Programme is a county-wide pot of £600,000, divided between the 12 districts. The 2022/2023 Grant pot has been split between 29 VCS providers over a total of 54 projects.
- 2.2. The grants range in value from £3,900 to £15,000 and all meet one or more of the following objectives;
 - Helping children to achieve potential through education
 - Improving ambition with access to work, training and education
 - Tackle the attainment gap of disadvantage closed
 - Work to get families out of crisis and children out of care
 - Helping children to have better physical and mental health
 - Getting ready for school at age 5
 - Give children a safe environment to raise children and young people

3. Commissioning Intentions

- 3.1. The Council's financial position has been a significant factor which has influenced the proposal to cease the funding of the LCPG Grants to contribute to the savings required. This can be achieved by not allocating the £600k to the LCPGs (work commences in December 2022 to run the Grants Programme effective 1 April 2023.)
- 3.2. As the current grants for the 2022/2023 period all expire on 31 March 2023 there is no requirement to give notice to providers.

4. Other Considerations

- 4.1. The delivery of the LCPG Grants is not statutory, however, KCC has been supporting the VCS through these arrangements since 2016 to help meet the local priorities as agreed through the Local Children's Partnership Groups. These groups are well attended by stakeholders which include but are not limited to, Health, VCS, Education, Public Health, Police, Fire and Rescue and

District Councils. It is therefore likely that partners will also express a view about the cessation of the funding offer.

4.2. There would be no TUPE implications for the current LCPG grants

4.3. There is insufficient time to plan, prepare and undertake meaningful public consultation ahead of the proposed implementation of this action.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. These services are currently funded from the KCC base budget reported against the Early Help and Preventative Services Key Service in the Budget Book. By ending provision there will be a potential budget saving of £600k.

5.2. There are limited financial risks associated with this proposal as all existing grant provision linked to the LCPGs is due to end 31 March 2023. The 2023/2024 round of grants have not yet commenced.

5.3. The current providers are all small to medium voluntary sector organisations. The removal of the LCPG Grants should have limited impact as this funding stream is short term and not guaranteed year to year. Therefore, it is unlikely that removal of the grants would impact on their ongoing viability.

6. Legal implications

6.1. There is no statutory requirement for the Local Authority to provide this funding stream for VCS organisations and no contractual obligations to continue funding beyond 31 March 2023.

7. Equalities implications

7.1. The decision will impact each of the protected characteristics, though no one group will be disproportionately impacted. This will continue to be developed.

8. Governance

8.1. Accountability for the LCPG Grants sits with the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education. Responsibility sits with the Director for Integrated Children's Services (Early Help Lead).

9. Conclusions

9.1. For reasons stated above, approving this action will bring a saving of £600k on the 2023/2024 base budget reported against the Early Help and Preventative Services Key Service in the Budget Book.

10. Recommendation(s):

10.1. The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to **consider** and **endorse** or **make recommendations** to the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services on the proposed decision to:

- a) **Cease** the funding for the Local Children's Partnership Group (LCPG) Grants programme from the end of the 2022/23 financial year; and
- b) **Delegate** authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to take relevant actions including but not limited to entering into legal agreements as necessary to implement this decision.

11. Background Documents

None

12. Contact details

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services

DECISION NO:

22/00109

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Local Children’s Partnership Group Grants Programme

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services, I propose to:

- a) Cease the funding for the Local Children’s Partnership Group (LCPG) Grants programme from the end of the 2022/23 financial year; and
- b) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to take relevant actions including but not limited to entering into legal agreements as necessary to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The current financial position of the council requires that all non-statutory funding be examined to see where potential savings could be made. The 2023/2024 round of grants has not yet commenced, it is important to take this decision prior to engaging with the VCS regarding next year’s allocation.

Background:

- Since 2016, the Local Children’s Partnership Group (LCPG) Grants Programme has been in place to allow grassroot VCS organisations funding for projects and programmes that support children, young people and families at a community level whilst tackling local priorities set out by the Partnership Board.
- The LCPG Grants Programme is a county-wide pot of £600,000, divided between the 12 districts. The 2022/2023 Grant pot has been split between 29 VCS providers over a total of 54 projects. The 2022/2023 LCPG grants range in value from £3,900 to £15,000

Financial implications

- The LCPG Grants Programme is a county-wide pot of £600,000, divided between the 12 districts, to fund projects to meet local need and support the priorities set out by each of the LCPGs.
- There are limited financial risks associated with this proposal as all existing grant provision linked to the LCPGs are due to end 31 March 2023. The 2023/2024 round of grants have not yet commenced.
- The current providers are all small to medium voluntary sector organisation. The removal of the LCPG Grants should have limited impact as this funding stream is short term and not guaranteed year to year. Therefore, it is unlikely that removal of the grants would impact on many of the organisations ongoing viability.

Legal implications

- There is no statutory requirement for the Local Authority to provide this funding stream for VCS organisations and no contractual obligations to continue funding beyond 31 March 2023.

Equalities implications

- The decision will impact each of the protected characteristics, though no one group will be disproportionately impacted. This will continue to be developed.

Data Protection implications

- None

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 29 November 2022 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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signed

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date