

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	21 February 2018
Title:	Children's Services Procurement - Approval to Spend
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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1. Recommendation(s)

1.1. That approval to spend is granted for:

- i) a Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support (SENDIAS) service to a value of up to £1.75m over five years;
- ii) Care Support Services for Children with Disabilities to a value of £4m over four years;
- iii) High Cost Placements Framework to a value of to a value of up to £6m (including accommodation costs) over four years; and
- iv) an Out of County framework for care leavers to a value of £2.8m over four years.

1.2. Delegated authority is approved for the Director of Children's Services to approve the necessary 0-19 unallocated grant fund should the SENDIAS procurement process incur any delays.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The purpose of this paper is to gain approval to spend in relation to contracts for services to be commissioned by Hampshire County Council's Children's Services department.

2.2. This papers seeks approval to spend for a Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support (SENDIAS) service, Care Support Services for Children with Disabilities; High Cost Placements and an Out of County framework for care leavers, in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing orders and Constitution.

2.3. This paper seeks to:

- give relevant background information on the Council's obligations for providing these services
- consider the finance and the impact on the budget
- highlight key issues
- request approval to spend for contracts set out in Appendix C.

3. SENDIAS

Contextual information

3.1 The [SEND Code of Practice](#) sets out the information, advice and support which local authorities **must** provide for children, young people and parents, covering special educational needs (SEN), disability, health and social care. Specifically, the local authority **must** ensure children, young people and parents are provided with information and advice on matters relating to SEN and disability (Code of Practice paragraph 2.17).

3.2 In Hampshire these services are currently provided by a combination of Support4SEND - an arms-length team of Hampshire County Council employees, and a grant to the Rose Road Association covering the Parent Voice service that gives parents advice and support about health and social care. This combination generally enables greater breadth of provision than statutorily required however there are some gaps around provision directly to young people and some overlap in delivery. The Department wishes to commission a single service that covers the statutory requirements.

Finance

3.3 The annual cost of a combined statutory service is estimated to be in the region of £250,000 to £350,000 per annum. However this is yet to be tested via market engagement. It is envisaged that combining the service will contribute to transformation to 2019 savings for the department.

3.4 Current funding arrangements will need to be maintained during the procurement and delegated authority is sought for the Director of Children's Services to approve the necessary 0-19 unallocated grant fund should the procurement process incur any delays.

Consultation and equalities

3.5 The Council will survey interested parties and service users about what factors are important in commissioning a SENDIAS service. This survey is expected to complete in early February 2018 and will inform an equality impact assessment as part of the commissioning process.

Other key issues

3.6 Commissioning the service from an external provider is likely to have TUPE implications for existing Council staff, and potentially for the Rose Road staff who provide the Parent Voice service.

Future direction

3.7 Tendering a SENDIAS service will provide better continuity over the contract term for staff and service users.

4. Care Support for Children with Disabilities

Contextual information

- 4.1 Care Support is part of Hampshire County Council's Children's Services Department's range of services which support children and young people with disabilities in accordance with our statutory duty. The children and young people requiring care support services will include those with severe disabilities such as learning disabilities, physical disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders, behaviour that challenges and complex health needs.
- 4.2 The services to be provided as Care Support may include: support with daily routines of getting up and going to bed; dressing/undressing; showering/bathing; using the toilet; administering medication; supporting programmes of communication, physical movement, or behaviour management; providing support and supervision when accompanying the child/young person when out in the community or when at the child/young person's home. This is not an exhaustive list of services/tasks.
- 4.3 In Hampshire these services are currently provided by a framework of approved care providers. The Department wishes to review and re-procure the framework to ensure that the quality and cost can be assured; providers are able to meet demand and fulfil all commissioned care packages; and to ensure that Contract Standing Orders are adhered to.

Finance

- 4.4 The annual cost of the Care Support service is estimated to be up to £1,000,000 per year. To re-procure the framework for a four year contract term would result in a £4,000,000 spend across the life of the contract.

Consultation and equalities

- 4.5 The Council is undertaking equality impact assessments as part of the commissioning process.

Other key issues

- 4.6 To ensure that current service users are not negatively impacted by a change in care arrangements

Future direction

- 4.7 A re-procured framework for Care Support will focus on improved outcomes for young people.

5. Out of County Framework for Care Leavers and High Cost Placements

Contextual information

- 5.1 Hampshire County Council has contracts in place for supported accommodation for Care Leavers across the authority area. For varying reasons, some Care Leavers need to be accommodated in other locations outside of County borders. These tend to be in Southampton, Portsmouth, Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole. In order to ensure that those placed in out of county can access the same level of support and accommodation as their peers placed within Hampshire, Childrens Services are collaborating with six other Authorities to tender for a framework agreement in which to purchase safe, good quality and cost effective placements.
- 5.2 An increasing number of young people aged 16+ are presenting, or are already known, to Children's Services with high needs that cannot be supported within our contracted accommodation. These young people are currently being supported in high cost accommodation which is commissioned on a spot purchase basis. The intention is to tender for a framework agreement to ensure that the quality and cost can be assured and to ensure that Contract Standing Orders are adhered to.

Finance

- 5.3 The total annual spend for the out of county supported accommodation within Hampshire will be in the region of £1.5 million, however this include all the rents for the accommodation, the Authority is only liable for the rents for unaccompanied asylum seekers with no recourse to public funds and Care Leavers aged 16-17 years.
- 5.4 High Cost placement annual spend is up to £700,000 per annum. It is anticipated that by utilising a framework contract rather than spot purchasing and with other changes going ahead within the Supported Accommodation service, this spend will reduce as well as offering better outcomes for young people.

Consultation and equalities

- 5.5 The views of Care Leavers in Dorset about placements past and present have been incorporated into the specification for supported accommodation.
- 5.6 The Council is undertaking equality impact assessments as part of the commissioning process.

Other key issues

- 5.7 None

Future direction

- 5.8 Contracted services will provide better continuity and improved outcomes for young people.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
Special educational needs and disability code of practice code of practice: 0-25 years statutory guidance	January 2015

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

DocumentLocation

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

5.2 The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

5.2.1 The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;

5.2.2 Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

5.2.3 Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

5.3 Equalities Impact Assessment:

Equality Statements will be completed for each project.

6 Impact on Crime and Disorder:

6.2 None.

7 Climate Change:

7.2.1 How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

7.2.2 How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Project title	Contract / Framework term and start date	Anticipated County Council value over term^[1]	Anticipated total value over term^[2] (Collaborative Spend)	Approval required
Special educational needs and disability information, advice and support service	1 July 2018 3 year duration, with option to extend for up to 2 years.	Between £1.25m and £1.75m over 5 years	N/A	Approval to spend
Care Support for Children with Disabilities	1 Sept 2018 for up to 4 years	Up to £4 million	N/A	Approval to spend
Out of County Framework for Care Leavers	1 July 2018, 4 year duration.	Between £3m and £6m in total (Maximum includes accommodation costs for which HCC are not always liable.)	Not yet available.	Approval to spend
High Cost Placements	1 September 2018 for up to 4 years.	Up to £2.8m	N/A	Approval to spend

^[1] Hampshire County Council spend subject to budget approval.

^[2] Collaborative spend subject to budget approval of the relevant local authorities and partners.