

**Agenda Item No: 5**

**AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IN SOUTH FENLAND TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2019**

*To:* Children and Young People's Committee

*Meeting Date:* 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019

*From:* Wendi Ogle Welbourn, Executive Director: People and Communities

*Electoral division(s):* All Fenland Divisions

*Forward Plan ref:* 2019/072      *Key decision:* Yes

*Purpose:* To seek Committee's agreement to commissioning the Fenland Child and Family Centre Services.

*Recommendation:* The Committee is recommended to:

a) Agree the direct award of a contract with Ormiston Families Trust for the provision of Child and Family services in South Fenland to 30 September 2020, at a value of £199,500;

b) Note the intention to go out to tender for the South Fenland Child and Family Centre Services, as part of joint tender exercise with Peterborough City Council.

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the intention to competitively tender the provision of the child and family centre services delivered in South Fenland area (covering March, Chatteris and Whittlesey). This report is being submitted to enable the Children and Young People's Committee an opportunity to raise any questions prior to being asked to approve the tender process at the committee meeting on 4 December 2019.
- 1.2 Sure Start Children's Centres have been established to improve outcomes for young children and their families and reduce inequalities, particularly for those families in greatest need of support. The provision of children's centre services is a statutory duty for Local Authorities, details of which are included in the Sure Start Children's Centre Guidance April 2013
- 1.3 There has been significant change made since 2017 to the children's centre services in Cambridgeshire, which was part of the Children's Change programme. In October 2017, Full Council agreed a proposal to redesign Children's Centres in Cambridgeshire agreeing a new model of delivery, following significant public consultation.
- 1.4 The Child and Family Centre model continues to be delivered with a mixed model of providers which includes internally delivered provision, underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding with two maintained nursery schools and a contract with Ormiston Families Trust.
- 1.5 On 13 November 2018, the Children and Young People's Committee received an update on the implementation and delivery of the child and family centre offer. At this time it was agreed to directly award a contract with Ormiston Families Trust for the provision of Child and Family Services until March 2020. This was to ensure that the service was maintained whilst proposals for the wider Children, Young People and Families work stream was further developed.
- 1.6 Since this decision, there has been an integration of the Healthy Child Programme, with a single Section 75 agreement being developed between the two providers of the healthy child programme, (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust and Cambridgeshire Community Services) working to integrate service delivery across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.
- 1.7 The Children, Young People and Families work stream continued under the remit of the Best Start in Life project, which has developed a Best Start in Life Strategy. This strategy was presented to the Children and Young People's Committee in September 2019. The recommissioning of the South Fenland Child and Family Centre service will align with this strategy.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 Cambridgeshire County Council currently has a contract with Ormiston Families Trust for the provision of Child and Family Centre Services, in South Fenland (March, Chatteris and Whittlesey). This contract is for an annual value of £399,000. The contract is due to end on 31 March 2020.

- 2.2 It is proposed to proceed with a joint tendering process with Peterborough City Council, to tender all of the *externally* delivered contracts across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. As contracts will end at the same time for these services efficiencies across the authorities can be achieved in undertaking this activity as a joint process.
- 2.3 Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Joint Commissioning Board will be the strategic governance body that approves the commissioning approach and tender documentation. Commissioners within Peterborough City Council will lead the tender process on behalf of the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Joint Commissioning Board. A Joint Project Board will oversee the commissioning activities and tender process.
- 2.4 The recommissioning of the services is likely to award a contract of three to five years, with a potential option to extend. The Cambridgeshire County Council contribution will therefore be in excess of £500,000 over the life of the contract. The Children and Young People's Committee will be asked to delegate authority to the Executive Director of People and Communities to award the contract.
- 2.5 A provisional timeline has been developed for the tender process. The procurement timeline means that there is a longer lead in time to ensure sufficient time to complete the procurement process and enable the service to be set up. The aim is to mobilise the contract by October 2020. In order to ensure the continued provision of the service from 1 April 2020 to the end of September 2020, it is proposed to award a six month contract to Ormiston Families Trust. This will be based on the current contract conditions and at the same contract value of £399,000 (pro rata). Therefore the cost will be £199,500 for the six month period. The Committee is asked to approve this short term arrangement, ensuring continuity of service delivery.
- 2.6 Approval to proceed to tender will be presented to the Children and Young People's Committee in December 2019.

### **3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

#### **3.1 A good quality of life for everyone**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### **3.2 Thriving places for people to live**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### **3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children**

The provision of child and family centre services provides an infrastructure to support families within their communities. The recommissioning of the service will continue to support the best start for our children and their families.

## **4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Resource Implications**

The current value of the South Fenland Child and Family Centre contract is £399,000. Whilst there is no specific savings target against this contract value, the tendering of the service may realise some efficiency savings that can be made in delivering the child and family centre services across the two authorities under one re-commissioning exercise.

### **4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

The procurement process will follow the legal statutory requirements and the contract procedure rules. The report sets out implications in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 above

### **4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

The report above sets out significant implications in paragraph 1.2

### **4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

The recommissioning of this service will ensure children, young people and families are able to access services in the locality detailed in the report.

### **4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications**

Significant consultation was undertaken as part of the children's change programme and a child and family offer was developed. The recommissioning of this service will be based on the offer developed through the previous consultation.

### **4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

There are no significant implications within this category

### **4.7 Public Health Implications**

The specification for the child and family services will be in line with the Best Start in Life Strategy, continue to reflect the Maternity Better Births agenda and will continue to link with the Healthy Child Programme. Access to family health services will continue to be included in the service specification.

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Officer Clearance</b>
<b>Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?</b>	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade
<b>Have the procurement/contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Gus Da Silva

<b>Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?</b>	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Amy Brown
<b>Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Oliver Hayward
<b>Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Jo Dickson
<b>Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Oliver Hayward
<b>Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
Details of the Healthy Child Programme	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-child-programme-pregnancy-and-the-first-5-years-of-life">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthy-child-programme-pregnancy-and-the-first-5-years-of-life</a>
Children and Young People Committee reports 13 November 2018	<a href="https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/832/Committee/4/Default.aspx">https://cambridgeshire.cmis.uk.com/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/832/Committee/4/Default.aspx</a>