

Family Safeguarding Services

To: Children and Young People's Committee

Meeting Date: 5 July 2022

From: Charlotte Black, Executive Director, People & Communities

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: KD2022/078

Outcome: Committee are asked to agree key decision so that contracts and grants for the Family Safeguarding Model can be extended.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- a) agree an extension to Barnardo's grants agreement to provide Domestic Abuse Victim Support Workers for the Family Safeguarding services.
- b) agree to enter into a Section 75 Agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust to deliver adult mental health practitioners for the Family Safeguarding service.

Voting: Co-opted members of the Committee are eligible to vote on this item.

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Member contacts:

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1. Background

- 1.1 In 2019, the Department for Education (DfE) confirmed that Cambridgeshire County Council would receive up to £2.49M in 2019/20 and £1.6M for 2020/21 to 'trailblaze the Family Safeguarding Model'. DfE later agreed a start date of March 2020.
- 1.2 Family Safeguarding (FSG) is a model of practice that involves the development of multi-disciplinary teams within children's social care services. These teams include adult-facing practitioners who are expert in working with substance and/or alcohol misuse, domestic abuse including both perpetrator and victim workers, and adult mental or emotional health and wellbeing. Known as the 'trio of vulnerabilities', these are the most common underlying problems that the families of the majority of children subject to child protection plans are struggling with.
- 1.3 The funding from the DfE was also used to bring caseloads down to around 15 in the FSG teams and implement a programme of training in Motivational Interviewing that accompanies the model. Initially developed in Hertfordshire, the model has resulted in significantly better outcomes for some of the most vulnerable and highest risk children and families. Adopting the model means that we are more able to provide the necessary support to families to make the changes required to safely parent their children, resulting in better long term outcomes alongside reducing costs.
- 1.4 Two of the services that were put in place with this DfE funding include:
 - 1) Provision of Domestic Abuse Victim Support Workers, delivered by Barnardo's
 - 2) Provision of Adult Mental Health Practitioners and Clinical Psychologist for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough delivered by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (CPFT).
- 1.5 The specialist requirements of this work meant that only providers with high levels of expertise in safeguarding could deliver this sensitive work. CPFT agreed to deliver the clinical specialist via a Section 75 Agreement. Barnardo's agreed to deliver domestic abuse victim support workers for the Family Safeguarding service.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Both of these FSG services started during the pandemic. Assurance mechanisms have highlighted an oversight in decision-making at the time these Grant and contracts were awarded, partly due to restrictions around the pandemic, the redeployment of practitioners and an understandable primary focus on business continuity. An error was made which meant reports were not issued to the appropriate Boards and Committee. Officers are now seeking to rectify this. Officers have established that the usual governance around key decisions as per Article 12 (Decision Making) of Cambridgeshire County Council Constitution was not undertaken at the time these services started.

2.2 This paper's recommendations have been extensively discussed with Pathfinder legal services, and CCC Procurement to ensure compliance now and in the future.

2.3 Provision of Domestic Abuse Victim Support Workers:

2.3.1 This grant agreement with Barnardos started on the 2nd March 2020 and is to be extended until 31st March 2024. It was reviewed against Cambridgeshire's *Grants to Voluntary Organisations Policy* and confirmed with Legal services that this remains a grant. CCC's Contract Procedure Rules take precedence in determining that Committee needs to approve the extension of this grant as its total value is £954,615.71 and therefore a key decision.

2.3.2 State Aid rules changed on the UK's exit from the EU. In place now is the Subsidy Control Act 2022 which was enacted this month, and further guidance is still to be published. Legal services confirmed that the grant to Barnardos is above the Subsidy control threshold of £325,000 and therefore will not be exempt from Subsidy control. The *UKs international subsidy control* guidance provides '*key steps public authorities should take when awarding subsidies*'. The first step is to determine whether this grant is a subsidy. Three subsidy tests are described in the guidance. '*All of these tests must be met for a measure to be a subsidy*'. This grant only meets 1 of the measures ie it is given by a public Authority. It is therefore not a subsidy.

2.3.3 There is a risk of challenge to the decision to award this grant. Procurement and Legal services believe that the risk of challenge is low, given the very specialist nature of this service, and Barnardo's strong track record of working with the most vulnerable families and highest risk children. Recognising lawful obligations to ensure market transparency, this grant will be published on the Council's contract register.

2.4 Provision of Adult Mental Health Practitioners and Clinical Psychologist through a Section 75 Agreement with CPFT for Cambridgeshire

2.4.1 CPFT provide Adult Mental health specialists including a lead Clinical Psychologist, working with the Adult Mental Health practitioners who will be part of district based multi-agency family safeguarding teams. This service started July 2020 and will continue to 31st March 2024.

2.4.2 The total value of this service is £903,052. This requires Children and Young People's Committee approval as it is a key decision.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Environment and Sustainability

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Health and Care

The Family Safeguarding model is proven to be effective at keeping more children safely within their families and helping parents to achieve lasting change.

3.3 Places and Communities

This model increases parenting capacity to provides stability, emotional warmth and stimulation to interact and play with children. Evaluation shows it lowers schools absence rates for children supported by FSG.

3.4 Children and Young People

See priority 4.2 and 4.2

3.5 Transport

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out details of significant financial implications in paragraph 1.1,2.3 and 2.4

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

We have worked with procurement to ensure compliance. Procurement involvement is set out in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The report sets out detail of legal and risk implications in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications for this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications for this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications for this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications for this category.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas:

There are no significant implications for this category.

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral

Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this.

- 4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this.
- 4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats and land management.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this.
- 4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this.
- 4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability and management:
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this.
- 4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this.
- 4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.
Positive/neutral/negative Status: Neutral
Explanation: The proposal has no impact on this.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes
Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement? Yes
Name of Officer: Clare Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer? Yes
Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes
Name of Officer: Will Patten

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? Yes
Name of Officer: Matthew Hall

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes
Name of Officer: Will Patten

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health? Yes
Name of Officer: Helen Freeman

If a Key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer? Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 None

[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

[The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[Grants to Voluntary Organisations Policy- Feb 2021.docx \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

[Subsidy Control Act 2022 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[Guidance on the UK's international subsidy control commitments - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)