

**RECOMMISSIONING OF YOUNG CARERS SERVICES ACROSS
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH**

To: Children and Young People’s Committee

Meeting Date: 11th September

From: **Will Patten: Service Director, Commissioning, People and Communities**

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: **KD2018/064** **Key decision: Yes**

Purpose: The planned recommissioning of Young Carers’ services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This service will be part of a larger tender process related to all Carers.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- a) agree to the tender of Young Carers’ services jointly with Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) through the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Joint Commissioning Board
- b) agree to delegating authority to the Director of Commissioning to commit funding at the time of the award of the contract.

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Young carers are defined by Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014 as;

“...a person under 18 who provides or intends to provide care for another person (of any age, except where that care is provided for payment, pursuant to a contract or as voluntary work).”

1.2 Section 96(12) of the Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to take reasonable steps to identify the extent to which there are young carers within their area who have needs for support.

1.2.1 The Act also places a duty on local authorities to offer an assessment where it appears that a child is involved in providing care. The assessment must consider whether the care being provided by the child is inappropriate and how the child's caring responsibility affects their wellbeing, education and development. Cambridgeshire offers 'whole family approaches' to assessment and subsequent support of Young Carers.

1.2.2 The legislation is aligned with similar provision in the Care Act 2014 requiring local authorities to consider the needs of young carers if during an assessment of an adult with care needs it appears that a child providing care.

1.3 According to the 2011 census, 4,208 young people under 25 years in Cambridgeshire provide unpaid care. 385 of these young people provide 50 hours of care or more per week. 92 are aged under 16 years. Research shows that there are growing numbers of Young Carers and that children are tending to provide care at younger ages.

1.3.1 Young Carers as a specific group may experience significant long-term effects on their physical and mental health and well-being as a result of their caring role. Data from the 2014 Health Related Behaviour Survey in Cambridgeshire tells us that Young Carers were less likely to have had eight hours sleep in the night before the survey; were more likely to have smoked a cigarette in the last seven days; and were more likely to have experienced bullying.

1.3.2 Young Carers are more likely to have lower attendance and attainment at GCSE level, equivalent to nine grades lower than their peers (The Children's Society, 2013). They are also more likely to go on to be 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET) when they become young adults (Carers JSNA, 2014).

1.4 The Council's approach to early help for children and families seeks to reduce the number of people requiring costly specialist services through preventative activity and enabling families and communities to take control and succeed independent of ongoing public services. It has a specific focus on making sure children are ready for and attend school and make expected progress; that young people have the skills, qualifications and opportunities to succeed in the employment market; and the number of families who need intervention from specialist or higher threshold services is minimised.

1.4.1 The 'Think Family' concept is at the heart of this model and will be crucial to supporting Young Carers to protect them from inappropriate caring responsibilities and reduce the negative impact that caring may have on their own opportunities and wellbeing.

2. MAIN ISSUES

Current Position

2.1 Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) currently fund the following services for young carers in Cambridgeshire:

Contract	Provider	Current Contract Value
Young Carers Support Services in Cambridgeshire	Centre 33	£230,994 pa
Young Carers Needs Assessment Service	CCC Young Adults Team	£96,225 pa

- 2.1.1** The Young Carers Support Services Contract provides early interventions and support to young carers to help them participate more in social and school life and to prevent long term educational and health consequences for these young people.
- 2.1.2** Overall, the Young Carers contract receives up to 310 new referrals and engaged with over 788 young carers in 2017-18. The service currently works with 29 secondary schools and some primary schools across Cambridgeshire. Services provided include support to schools on how to best meet the needs of young carers, training key school staff to drive changes in their school, drop in sessions, young carer groups that meet after school¹, including a pilot '*someone to talk to*' for children while their parents attend a workshop with the Drug and Alcohol team), develop bespoke plans for young carers with complex needs, and one to one support².
- 2.1.3** Feedback from young people and their parents builds a fuller picture of the caring responsibilities and impact:
- 2.1.4** Young Carers say that they value being carers and want a flexible service offer that includes a range supports that they can tap into as their caring roles change as well as easily accessible online advice and information about local services.
- 2.1.5** A parental survey carried out by Centre 33 found the priority for parents was young carers accessing peer support and respite through young carer groups, support in schools for young carers and parental information on young carers services.
- 2.1.6** The Young Carers Support Service Contract expires 30 November 2018, but has an option to extend for a further two year. However, Peterborough City Council (PCC) and Cambridgeshire County Council's Strategic intention is for the recommissioning of Adult

¹ This included 307 young carers in respite activities

² 250 Young Carers received one to one support in 2017-18, an additional 136 received support on the transition to secondary school, further education, employment and adult life.

Carer services and Young Carers services together and across the two authorities by June 2019.

2.1.7 The Young Carers Assessment Service is managed by Early Help Hub and Team. The assessment process will be reviewed to ensure pathways for young carer's assessment and support are clear, aligned and integrated.

3.0 What is proposed?

The process

3.1 The All Age Carers Strategy 2016-2020³ sets out CCC's strategic preventative approach to supporting Carers of all ages. It emphasises collaborative approaches and the close involvement of carers and other agencies. This then is the basis for a joint approach with PCC.

3.2 Jointly commissioning 'All Age Carer services' will allow funding from CCC and PCC, to be combined into one tender process but with two separate contracts: One contract will be for adults preventative services and one for young carers support services.

3.2.1 This would bring together Cambridgeshire Young Carers services investment of £230, 944 and Peterborough's investment of approximately £80,000.

3.3 Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Joint Commissioning Board (PC JCB) will be the strategic body that approves the commissioning approach and tender documentation. Cambridgeshire County Council would lead the tender process on behalf of the PC JCB. The Joint Carers Commissioning Strategy group will oversee and coordinate the commissioning activities and tender processes.

3.4 The existing young carer's contracts in Cambridgeshire and in Peterborough reach the end of their contract period at different times. In order to re-commission a joint service across the two authorities, the end dates of these contracts will need to co-terminate. This means aligning existing contracts so that they all expire at the same time in September 2019.

3.5 As the re-commissioning is likely to seek a contract of four years in length with the option of a further two years, the CCC contribution to the contract will be in excess of £500,000. We are therefore asking the Children and Young People's Committee to delegate authority to the Director of Commissioning to award funding when the award of contract is made.

The Services

3.6 Re-commissioning Young Carers Services offers the opportunity to re-design services in line with local findings, national best practices, CCRA⁴ intelligence and service models, and legislative requirements in which support is based on a young person's needs. The service

³ https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/working-together-children-families-and-adults/All_age_carers_strategy_2016_2020.pdf?inline=true

⁴ Children's Cross Regional Arrangement Group is a partnership of local authorities working together to support the sourcing, contracting, monitoring and annual fee negotiations for children's placements and to improve the outcomes for all children and young people.

will build on our existing models. Any additional investment will enable more young people under the age of 25 to be identified and access/signposted to the right support service.

- 3.5 Support will be delivered through a range of structured sessions, but also drop-ins to cater for the variable needs of individuals and communities. The service will also make greater use of technology to cater for young people.
- 3.6 Currently young carer service provision is for those under the age of 18 years old and at secondary school. In the new contract this will be extended to include those under the age of 25. As emerging data is suggesting a growing number of primary age children are becoming young carers, we are considering potentially expanding support services to children of primary school age, depending on feasibility findings as this age group often require more intensive approaches and resourcing.
- 3.8 A key advantage of recommissioning services in this way includes ensuring consistency of young carer support services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Currently there are two providers, Centre 33 in Cambridgeshire and Carers Trust in Peterborough.
- 3.9 We have gaps in service provision that a larger contract may be able to address. These include:
 1. ensuring that all services who work with adults are also aware and trained on the impact the adult's condition/situation has on any young people and are asking the right questions to ensure the young person is identified.
 2. Working together to provide joint, online support for young carers recognising this is a preferred and accessible method for many young people and how they would prefer to receive support

Implications for existing service providers

- 3.10 There are potential implications for the voluntary sector organisation that are currently commissioned to provide Young Carer support services in Cambridgeshire and in Peterborough. In particular, CCC funding accounts for the majority of Centre 33's existing funding. Removal of this funding could potentially have a significant effect on this local organisation. However, this would remain a risk in any recommissioning of services.

Procurement Timelines

- 3.11 A draft specification for the tender will be developed with Young Carers and providers by March 2019, with tender process beginning in April 2019.
- 3.12 The procurement timeline means that a longer lead in time is necessary to ensure there is sufficient time to complete the process and enable any new service to be set up. The aim would be to have the new service in place September 2019.

4.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

Section 1 and 2 details how this work supports young carers to live healthy lives

4.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

Section 1 and 2 details how this paper addresses supporting and protecting vulnerable young people

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The report above sets out significant implications in paragraphs 2.1, 3.2.1.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The procurement process will follow the legal statutory requirements and Contract Procedure Rules. The report above sets out significant implications in paragraphs 3.3, 3.4, 3.8, 3.11 and 3.12.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

The report above sets out significant implications in paragraphs 1.1 – 1.2.1.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The re-commissioning of this service should ensure further improvements in equity of access for children and young people

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

Children, young people, and parents have been involved in developing the All Age Carers strategy for Cambridgeshire. Young Carers will be involved in the procurement process and there will be engagement and wider communication as appropriate.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category

4.7 Public Health Implications

The report above sets out significant implications in paragraphs 1.3.1 and 1.4.1

Implications	Officer Clearance
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 LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes Name of Officer: Paul White
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Duncan Dooley-Robinson
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Oliver Hayward
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Joanne Dickson
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Oliver Hayward
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

SOURCE DOCUMENTS

Source Documents	Location
All Age Carers Strategy 2016-2020	https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/working-together-children-families-and-adults/strategies-policies-and-plans/strategies-for-adults-and-older-people/
Summary of Themed JSNA Reports 2017 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	http://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/CCC-JSNA-summary-report-2016-2017-FINAL_20170911.pdf
Young Carers' Needs Assessment Supporting information for use in conjunction with "No Wrong Doors"; template for local memorandum of understanding on work with young carers.	https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Young%20Carers%20needs%20assessment.pdf

The Life of Young Carers in England, culminating in the *Omnibus Survey Report* in January 2017. *The Support Provided to Young Carers in England* (Dec, 2016)

Still Hidden, Still Ignored: Who cares for young carers? By Emma James, December 2017 Barnardo's

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/still_hidden_still_ignored_-_barnardo_s_young_carers_report.pdf