

**TARGETED FAMILY SUPPORT IN CHILDREN
AND FAMILY CENTRE CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Cabinet Date	24 July 2019
Children's Safeguarding and Early Years	Cllr Richard Boyles
Key Decision	Yes
Background Documents	Cabinet paper June 2016
Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents	<p>1.Children and Young People's Plan 2015-18 https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-policies/children-and-families/</p> <p>2.Right Placement First Time – Sufficiency Strategy https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-young-people-and-families/sufficiency-strategy-2018-2021/</p> <p>3.Children and Family Centres information and local offer https://www.glofamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glofamilies/results.page?familychannel=3_2_1</p> <p>4.Performance Reports for Children and Family Centres can be viewed through the links https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/children-and-family-centres-in-gloucestershire/</p>

<p>Main Consultees</p>	<p>Prior to the current contract, consultation was conducted with the following stakeholders:</p> <p>Parent, carers and young children using children and family centres.</p> <p>Partnership Advisory Boards.</p> <p>Children and family centre staff, managers and managing organisations.</p> <p>Professionals and partners who deliver services to young children and their families.</p> <p>NHS Gloucestershire CCG through the Joint Commissioning Partnership.</p> <p>District, Parish and Town Councils.</p> <p>Gloucestershire Schools Forum.</p> <p>Early Years team and providers</p> <p>Throughout the current contract, families have been engaged to assess their satisfaction with service provision and outcomes met through regular feedback on the support they have received and an evaluation after support has closed. This information will be used to inform the performance of the contracts over the next two years.</p>
<p>Planned Dates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24th July 2019 – Cabinet approval sought for contract extensions. • July 2019 – notify current contract holders of intention to extend contracts • Oct 2019 – Formally write to providers to inform them of the 2 year extension to current services. • 1st April 2020 Extension of contracts begins • Autumn 2020, options appraisal for new procurement to be approved.
<p>Divisional Councillor</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Officer</p>	<p>Wendy Williams Assistant Director for Integrated Commissioning Children and Families Tel. no, 01452 328526 Wendy.williams3@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Purpose of Report</p>	<p>To seek approval to exercise the contractual option to extend the existing contracts for the provision of targeted family support services in children and families centres in Gloucester City, Forest of Dean and Stroud and Cheltenham and Tewkesbury localities from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2022.</p>
<p>Recommendations</p>	<p>That Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Children’s Services to exercise the option to extend the current contracts for the provision of targeted support services in the 16 Children and Family Centres in Gloucester City, Forest of Dean and Stroud and Cheltenham and Tewkesbury localities from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2022.</p>

<p>Reasons for recommendations</p>	<p>The current contracts have the option to extend for further period for up to two years.</p> <p>These contracts significantly support the payment by results work of the troubled families programme. Children and Family Centres have exceeded their targets set for the last 2 years and in doing this have supported many more children and families than anticipated and made a bigger contribution to the payment by results service of families first that helps to make up the current Early Help service.</p> <p>The contracts are robustly monitored and are performing well, sustaining positive outcomes for the children and families they support.</p> <p>Enabling the 2 year extension of the current contracts will sustain continuity of care to some of our most vulnerable children and families. In the meantime, commissioners will develop the longer term for future provision, in line with the new Sufficiency Strategy, and any national decision in relation to the future funding of the Troubled Families Programme.</p> <p>Providers are adding value to communities outside of the contracts in terms of universal services and volunteering opportunities. Allowing the extension of contracts would also allow these services to grow and develop providing access to low level universal support and opportunities for volunteering and employment within local communities.</p>
<p>Resource Implications</p>	<p>The total budget figure for the Children and Family Contracts is £3,625,482 per annum. The total 2 year spend would be £7,250,964. There is currently a shortfall of £252,000 in Children and Family Centre funding due to a decrease in the Designated Schools Grant Funding.</p>

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1. Background

Following a full public consultation and a redesign of the children's centre offer across Gloucestershire, Cabinet approved in June 2016, a new model of working for children's centres to support children pre-birth to 11 years and their families, who have a level of need that would require intervention. This targeted family support service is based around 16 Children and Family Centre buildings based in the areas of greatest deprivation in Gloucestershire.

The remaining 29 children's centre buildings have been de-designated as formal children's centres and have been developed as hubs for early education and childcare, universal services delivered by private, voluntary and community groups and as bases for professionals who work with families.

These remaining children and family centres have been managed by 3 organisations, 2 commissioned externally and one commissioned in house.

The contracts for the provision of targeted family support services in children and families centres in the Gloucester City locality; and Forest of Dean and Stroud localities were awarded to Barnardo's.

The contract was awarded to Gardners Lane and Oakwood Federation (GLOW) for the provision of the above services in the localities of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. Gloucestershire County Council (Families First Plus) covers the locality of the-Cotswolds.

The current contracts run for an initial term of three years from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2020. Cabinet approved in June 2016 the contract term of 3+2 year option for these contracts which would allow consistent service delivery until March 2022.

Since these contracts have begun the targeted family support service based around the 16 Children and Family Centres has significantly supported the payment by results for the troubled families programme

The monitoring of current children and family centre activity and impact is based on a variety of data sources. These include:

- Troubled Families central data team
- Performance and Data team
- Gloucestershire County Council's Liquid Logic and EHM systems
- OFSTED data
- Sufficiency Assessments
- Data collected through contract monitoring with Children's Centres
- Headcount data

Key achievements include:

- The Children's Centres proportion of the payment by results target was 456families for Year 1. The service actually supported 1,009 families (equating to over 3,000 individuals) in 17/18 as part of the targeted family support service. This exceeded the target set by nearly double.
- Over a third of families supported were children on a Child in Need plan.

- The service provides packages of support to children on Child Protection plans where the long term aim is for the child to stay within the family home.
- The Children and Family Centres are being used as a hub for community supervised contacts.
- In addition to the targeted family support service the centres are facilitating additional targeted and universal services to support children and families.
- These universal and targeted services run by partners are well attended by local families.
- Delivery of the Freedom Programme and You and Me Mum, both evidenced based programmes to support families experiencing domestic abuse are well embedded.
- A menu of evidenced based parenting programmes such as Solihull, Webster Stratton and Triple P are delivered through the centres to support families to improve their parenting skills. Pre-birth classes are reaching families at a much earlier stage to embed positive parenting.
- A wide range of universal services are on offer to children and families in all localities showing us universal services are being retained and grown by local communities.

2. Options

This paper sets out three possible options for cabinet to consider:

2.1 Option 1

Do nothing - this would allow the contracts to come to a natural end in March 2020, with no other provision in place. This would lead to a vast number of vulnerable families having access to little or no targeted support services.

2.1.1 This option would only leave services within the Cotswolds area as these are not externally commissioned.

2.1.3 The council would be at risk of not being able to claim the final year of Troubled Families payment by results funding. This would also reduce funding for other wider Early Help services.

2.1.4 Where support is not available to families, this will lead to further escalation of needs therefore impaction on statutory services.

2.2 Option 2

To implement the 2 year extension within the contract, allowing for longer term planning of services to take place, in line with Gloucestershire children's services proposed new Early Help Strategy and the government decision in relation to the Troubled Families programme. This option would allow continuity of care for vulnerable families, as well as being able to claim the final year of the troubled families payments by results funding.

2.2.1 Current services are working above contact capacity, therefore families who need support are receiving this in a timely and appropriate manner, preventing where appropriate escalation of needs and statutory interventions.

2.3 Option 3

Implement only one year extension of the current contract, this would allow for the current services to continue while an options appraisal for future services is under taken. While this option would give time for a full tendering process to take place, the shorter timeframe would mean that a service would be designed within a silo outside of the new Help Strategy and potentially not being able to respond to any changes in government direction in relation to the Troubled Families programme.

Cabinet is asked to consider Option 2 as the preferred option. This preferred options, reduces the risks to the council, allows for the development and inclusion of children centre services to be incorporated within the new Early Help Strategy, while ensuring vulnerable families within Gloucestershire County Council have continuity of family support services.

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 Option 1

The risk here is in relation to the council's reputation and ability to respond to vulnerable families in a timely and appropriate manner.

3.1.1 With little or no targeted support, families will be left with escalating needs, therefore meeting the threshold for specialised services, which would be more costly and for extended periods of time due to lack of "step down" targeted support.

3.1.2 Children Services would be at risk of not being able to claim all the potential payment by results funding from the current Troubled Families Programme. This would also have a wider impact onto Early Help services.

3.1.3 Not being able to claim complete the full Troubled Families target would affect Gloucestershire's performance and reputation within the National Troubled Families Programme

3.2 Option 2

There are no specific risks at this moment in time regarding the extension of the contracts.

3.2.1 There will not be any contract variations being made, contracts will not significantly alter and the scope of the service specification will stay the same.

3.2.2 During the two year extension period, the future Early Help offer will be developed in line with the Sufficiency Strategy action plan and any changes/ extension to the Troubled families programme. Action plans will be implemented and managed using a project management approach, with a risk and issues log being actively managed.

3.3.1 Option 3

Having just a one year extension would leave a very tight timeframe for any retendering or reconfiguration of services. Work to implement the new Early Help Strategy and any new Troubled Families Programme would be reduced, losing the potential to join up services to deliver Gloucestershire County Council longer term vision.

3.3.2 The council will be at risk of not being able to claim all the payment by results funding within the final year of the Troubled Families programme. This would have a direct affect on the financial stability within the wider Early Help Services, as well as the council's performance and reputation within the National Troubled Families Programme.

4. Shaping Early Help for the future

4.1 Gloucestershire Children Services Officers are in the process of finalising their new Early Help Strategy; this strategy is currently being developed and will be ready for draft approval in August. This will set out Gloucestershire and its partner's vision to support families at the earliest point, with services that are accessible, outcome focused to prevent children, young people and their families for escalating to statutory services.

4.2 We want to ensure 'every contact counts'. This will require a complete shift from children's health, education and care services so services to children and families are available from all partners at the earliest possible point they can intervene.

4.3 Early Help is pivotal to reducing children going into care but also crucially to prevent children becoming 'children in need' – a precursor to care. We need our Early Help services to reach families experiencing cycles of childhood trauma by using an ACE's approach to working with parents, and delivering trauma informed services. .

4.4. This Early Help Strategy will be a long term 5 year plan, between Gloucestershire County Council and its Partners, to deliver services where we can evidence the impact on statutory services, capturing efficiencies in both the short and long term costs.

5. Officer Advice

5.1 The current contracts are growing in success and are with providers who have significantly improved services and outcomes for children and their families.

5.2 Extending these contracts will offer the opportunity to maintain and build on this performance and also the added value that providers have bought to these contracts.

5.3 Taking the proposed approach, will allow for services to be developed in a planned way as part of Gloucestershire's Early Help offer.

6. Equalities Considerations

6.1 The impact of extending the contract for Children and Family Centres is positive in terms of age and neutral in all other areas.

6.2 The Due Regard Statements for this service have been fully updated and show no gaps in equalities impact. The Troubles Families Programme, which the targeted family support service aligns to, have had Due Regard Statements to test their equalities impacts as have the reshaped safeguarding response that seeks to be inclusive and specifically address the different challenges that are a feature of children and families 0-11 years of age.

7. Consultation Feedback

7.1 Consultation with service users takes place every quarter, using different forms of engagement which have been completed as part of the current contract requirements.

7.2 This has clearly evidenced developing and sustained good practice, with improved outcome for our vulnerable children and their families.

7.3 Feedback informs commissioners that services are accessible to children and their families and that they feel engaged with the programmes of support, they feel listened to and valued.

7.4 Consultation will continue throughout the extension of contracts, this will inform both the continued development of services, and the design of new services post 2022.

8. Performance Management/Follow-up

8.1 Currently there are robust contract monitoring frameworks in place, for the core delivery of the service as well as the outcome payments for the Troubled Families Programme.

8.2 The Children and Family Centre contracts will continue to be monitored quarterly.

8.3 Children's Commissioning Hub also carries out additional monitoring visits, and unannounced visits, to quality assure provision.

8.3 All performance data will be evaluated as part of developing new service post 2022.

Report Title	Targeted Family Support Services in Children and Family Centre Contract Extension
Statutory Authority	<p>Childcare Act 2006 and Childcare Act 2016</p> <p>Statutory guidance on early childhood services and Sure Start Children's Centres (2013)</p> <p>Statutory guidance for local authorities on the provision of early education and childcare.</p> <p>1989 Children Act and subsequent related statute and statutory guidance</p>
Relevant County Council policy	<p>Children and Young Peoples Plan 2015-2018</p> <p>Meeting the Challenge 2: Together We Can. Gloucestershire County Council's Strategy 2015-2018. ??</p> <p>Sufficiency Strategy 2018 - 2021</p>
Resource Implications	The total budget figure for the Children and Family Contracts is £3,625,482 per annum. The total 2 year spend would be £7,250,964. There is currently a shortfall of £252,000 in Children and Family Centre funding due to a decrease in the Designated Schools Grant Funding.
Sustainability checklist:	
Partners	Consultation with partners was integral to the development of the proposals outlined in this report.
Decision Making and Involvement	Cabinet
Economy and Employment	The further development of nurseries to delivered 30 hours of free child care is supporting working parents of 3 and 4 year olds.
Caring for people	The focus of the current and proposed services is the role that the Council and communities play in caring for vulnerable people.
Social Value	Added value– complementary services including early years and childcare being delivered to the community in parallel to the contract by voluntary and community groups from the 16

<p>Built Environment</p> <p>Natural Environment' including Ecology (Biodiversity)</p> <p>Education and Information</p>	<p>children and family centres and the 29 satellite children's centres.</p> <p>The Sure Start Capital grant that was allocated to Local Authorities to support the building of Sure Start Children's Centres is subject to a 25 year claw back clause that has implications for the use and allocation of buildings and resources. Any future service delivery model has to consider this. It is anticipated that by continuing to use the buildings through schools, community groups and partners delivering universal children's activity the Council will mitigate this risk. The de-designation status of the 29 universal children's centres is 'deferred' clawback which means the local authority still has a statutory duty to ensure services for children under 5 are available to the local community through these buildings. To mitigate this risk, support and 6 monthly audits take place to inform DfE of the activity taking place from each building.</p> <p>No direct implications</p> <p>The report recognises the role the Council has to play in providing information, advice and guidance in order to help people make informed choices about services in their area. Gloucestershire's Families Information Service provides this information to all families.</p>
<p>Tackling Climate Change</p>	<p>Carbon Emissions Implications? Neutral</p> <p>Vulnerable to climate change? No</p>
<p>Due Regard Statement</p>	<p>Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? Yes</p> <p>Yes - considerations included in main body of report</p> <p>A copy of the full Due Regard Statement can be accessed on GLOSTEXT via http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1</p> <p>Alternatively a hard copy is available for inspection from Jo Moore, Democratic Services Unit, e-mail: jo.moore@gloucestershire.gov.uk.</p>
<p>Human rights Implications</p>	<p>It is not envisaged that any of the proposals in this cabinet report would have any significant human rights implications</p>
<p>Consultation Arrangements</p>	<p>The proposals in this cabinet report are informed by a wide-ranging consultation which took place during January – March 2016. Ongoing engagement of children and families has shown positive engagement and outcomes for children and families supported by the services.</p>