



REPORT TITLE: Variation of existing contracts for an extension to the existing services to Children and Family Centres

Dates between which decision will be taken	Earliest date: 17 August 2022 Latest date: 31 August 2022
Cabinet Member	Cllr Stephen Davies - Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose of Report	To seek approval to vary existing contracts with Barnardo's, and Aspire Foundation for a further 3 months, from 31st March 2023 to 30 th June 2023, for the provision of targeted family support services within Children and Family Centres in Gloucestershire to cover Gloucester City, Forest of Dean, Stroud, Cheltenham, and Tewkesbury districts. The provision in the Cotswolds will remain with the inhouse provider delivered alongside the Supporting Families Programme.
Recommendations	1) That the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years approves a variation to the following contracts with two existing providers to extend the end date of the contracts by 3 months: a) Barnardo's: for the provision of targeted family support services within Children and Family's Centres in the Gloucester City district; and the Forest of Dean and Stroud districts. The 3-month extension requires one further quarterly fee of £561,805, representing 5% of the original contract value. b) Aspire Foundation: for the provision of the above services in the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury districts. The 3-month extension requires one further quarterly fee of £344,566, representing 5% of the original contract value. c) Separate from the procurement referred to at (a) and (b) above, but complementary to it, the Cotswold service is delivered in house through the Supporting Families programme.
Reasons for Recommendations	The proposed contract extensions will allow additional time for the procurement of the new contract in order to allow further community and voluntary sector engagement, to reduce any barriers in creating consortium bids, and the opportunity to reflect on the implications of the independent review of children's social care; Final report (May 2022).

Resource Implications	The total budget requirement remains unchanged, with the extension of £982,969 funded through existing budgets.
------------------------------	---

<p>Background Documents</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet paper February 2022 <u>Decision - The recommissioning of Children and Family Centres as the starting point for the development of Family Hubs across Gloucestershire for children aged 0-19 years (up to 25 years where children have special educational needs or disabilities).</u> 2. Cabinet paper July 2021 <u>Decision - Variation of existing contracts for an extension to the existing services to Children and Family Centres</u> 3. Cabinet paper June 2016 <u>Reshaping Services for Families with Young Children</u> 4. The best start for life: a vision for the 1,001 critical days <u>The best start for life a vision for the 1 001 critical days.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)</u> 5. Children and Young People’s Plan 2015-18 <u>https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-planspolicies/children-and-families/</u> 6. Right Placement First Time – Sufficiency Strategy <u>Sufficiency Strategy 2018 - 2021 - Gloucestershire County Council</u> 7. Children and Family Centres information and local offer <u>Local Offer - Search Results Glosfamilies Directory</u> 7. Summary, executive summary, booklets and data dashboards for Children and Family Centres can be viewed upon request to the report author. 8. Pre engagement undertaken with children and families (Nicholas Day Associates), with partners and key stakeholders and with youth support (DNA Youth Consultancy) have all been listed below and can all be viewed upon request to the report author: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘GCC – Report of Engagement on the Future of Children & Family Centres ‘Locality finding, provision and gaps’ ‘DNA Gloucestershire Summer 2021’ ‘Children & Families pre-engagement survey November 2021’
<p>Statutory Authority</p>	<p>Gloucestershire County Council The Childcare Act 2006 - Establishment of Children’s Centres</p>

Divisional Councillor(s)	All
Officer	Any representations should be sent to: Wendy Williams Assistant Director for Integrated Children and Families Commissioning Tel: 01452 328526 Email: wendy.williams3@gloucestershire.gov.uk By 5pm on 16th August 2022
Timeline	New contact to be in place for 1 st July 2023

Background

1. In February 2022, Cabinet approved the recommissioning of children and family centres from 1st April 2023 as a starting point in the development of the family hub model for children 0-19 (25 for SEND) across Gloucestershire.
2. The decision made was to commission the service across three lots covering the 6 localities as follows:
 - a) Lot 1: Gloucester and Forest of Dean (contract value £1,824,391)
 - b) Lot 2: Stroud and Cotswolds (contract value £786,376)
 - c) Lot 3: Cheltenham and Tewkesbury (contract value £1,321,110)
3. A draft specification is well progressed and has been co-produced over the last year with a range of stakeholders through locality and county wide events. Provider market engagement events took place in May 2022. All events have been based on commissioning services through these three Lots whilst maintaining a strong focus on locality partnership working.
4. We are now seeking approval to vary existing contracts to Barnardo's and Aspire Foundation from 31st March 2023 to 30th June 2023 for the provision of targeted family support services with Children and Family Centres in Gloucestershire. To cover Gloucester City, Forest of Dean, Stroud, Cheltenham, and Tewkesbury districts. The provision within the Cotswolds will stay inhouse and be delivered alongside the Supporting Families Programme.
5. The rationale for this extension is to allow additional time for the procurement of the new contracts in order to reduce perceived barriers to smaller voluntary organisations, in the event they want to bid. The Council had made substantial efforts to give adequate notice well in advance and this proposal is intended to overcome unforeseen representations which arose through engagement with local voluntary organisations.

Options

6. **Option 1:** Do nothing - this process will continue as previously agreed by Cabinet, with the recommissioning in three Lots to the timescales agreed. This will not preclude voluntary organisations from bidding individually or as part of Consortia however, it will not respond to the challenge from those groups requesting additional time to prepare for the tendering process.
7. **Option 2:** To extend and vary current contracts to allow additional time for Consortia arrangements to be explored by the CVS. It is perceived that this will reduce barriers for smaller organisations - or those who are district specific - who wish to bid for the Family Hub contracts.

Risks

8. The variation of the current contracts will delay the improvement and transformation of universal, early intervention and prevention services for families by three months. The

planned date to go to market was early July 2022 to enable new contract to be in place by 1st April 2023 when the current contracts end. An extension will mean new contracts are in place by 1st July 2023.

9. Service effectiveness and continuity of service provision will not adversely be affected by this contract extension. In principle discussion have been undertaken with current contract holders who can begin to plan this extension of contract once approval has been given. Transformation work towards Family Hubs will continue the implementation date will just be moved by 3 months.
10. There is a reputational risk that GCC will be seen to not respond to a formal request for additional time from the CVS if an extension is not approved. Procurement regulations for this contract extension has been considered and we are satisfied this extension is compliant.
11. There is a risk of procurement challenge. However, Public Contracts Regulations (2015) Regulation 72 (b) allows for the contract to be modified due to the significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of cost as long the overall nature of the contract has not changed and the increase in price does not exceed 50% of the original contract value. The complexity of the contracts means that a short-term award to anyone other the incumbent providers would significantly inconvenience and a substantial duplication of costs. As the nature of the overall contract is not changing, the price increase is under 50% of the original contract (approximately 5%) and there is a tender process imminent, the risk of challenge is low.

Financial implications

12. There are no financial implications with the extension of £982,970k funded through existing budgets.

Climate change implications

13. No disproportionate impact identified.

Equality implications

14. Has an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) been completed? Yes
15. Cabinet Members should read and consider the Equalities Impact Assessment in order to satisfy themselves as decision makers that due regard has been given.

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) implications

16. IMS Procurement risk assessment has been completed, identifying a high risk. IMS have been engaged to support the procurement to ensure that all contractual and security requirements are implemented. A DPIA is required but yet to be completed. Once done any identified risks will be mitigated where possible with the assistance of

IMS. Any outstanding risks will be presented to the Information Asset Owner for a decision on the appropriate course of action taken into consideration IMS advice.

Social value implications

17. Under a short extension to the contract period, the social value will be unchanged. However, the Council would continue to work with the two providers to look at potential opportunities within the contract.

Consultation feedback

18. There has been no consultation regarding the proposed change. However, it arises as the result of feedback obtained through engagement with potential providers.

Officer recommendations

19. **Option 2:** to extend and vary current contracts for 3 months to allow additional time for Consortia arrangements to be explored by the CVS; this extension of contracts is to be awarded to the current providers:

- a) Barnardo's: for the provision of targeted family support services with Children and Family Centres in the Gloucester City district; and the Forest of Dean and Stroud districts.
- b) Aspire Foundation: for the provision of the above services in the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury districts.

Performance management/follow-up

20. Robust monitoring frameworks will remain in place for the core delivery of the service.

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

22. All performance data will be evaluated as part of reshaping and developing of the new Family Hub model.