

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

DATE: 24 APRIL 2013

LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

LAURA LANGSTAFF ACTING HEAD OF PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING

SUBJECT: AWARD OF EXTENSION OF SHORT BREAK CONTRACTS



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The County Council has a Statutory duty to deliver Short Break services for disabled Children and Young People and their families across the County of Surrey. The Council currently spends £3.4m pounds per annum on Short Break services delivered by a number of providers.

During 2009/10 the Aiming High programme increased the number and variety of Short Breaks services available across the County and developed the range of providers able to deliver short break services to disabled children. A number of these contracts expired at the end of March 2013 and this paper outlines the proposed extension of these contracts, as well as describing the future review of commissioning these services.

The Cabinet Member is asked to agree the extension of the contracts with Disability Challengers and White Lodge for 12 months, until 31 March 2014. Following a Joint Strategic Review working with health partners in Clinical Commissioning Groups taking place during 2013/14, a competitive procurement process will be undertaken and award new contracts to be in place from 1 April 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the contracts with White Lodge and Disability Challengers be extended on a short-term basis until 31 March 2014 as set out in this report.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To prevent disruption and allow for continuity of service whilst fulfilling the Council's statutory duty to deliver Short Break Services to children with disabilities and enable the preparation of a new commissioning and procurement process from April 2014.

DETAILS:

Background

1. Surrey County Council currently spends £3.4m per annum on Short Break Services for disabled Children and Young People. Surrey County Council funds varying levels of service and the current Short Break providers deliver a range of service right across the County.

2. A number of Short Break contracts expired on the 31 March 2013. The Service and Commissioning are currently reviewing the needs of Short Break services to develop new commissioning strategies and align any future Strategy with the wider service and Joint Strategic Review recommendations.
3. The largest of these contracts are with two voluntary sector providers; White Lodge and Disability Challengers. The services delivered under these contracts and value are outlined below:

White Lodge

Short Breaks services:

Play and Leisure	£117,256.00
Treetops Services	£304,287.00
Family Link	£49,842.00
Daycare	£88,528.00
Rendezvous Saturday Club	£42,051.00
Total contract value	£601,964.00

Disability Challengers

Short Breaks services

Play and Leisure	£329,753.00
Extended Play and Youth Schemes	£246,678.00
Freemantles Transport	£6,055.00
Ridgeway Transport	£7,085.00
Youth Activity Weekends	£53,274.00
One-to-One Sundays	£8,007.00
	£650,852.00

Epsom, Bookham & Caterham Half Term Youth Services	£41,233.00
Additional specialist Play and Leisure schemes	£26,000.00
Total contract value	£718,085.00

4. The extension of the existing contracts will prevent disruption and allow for continuity of the service.
5. Performance monitoring of the existing contracts demonstrate that the services are delivered to a high quality and to the agreed specifications. Any issues regarding quality of service are addressed by the Short Break Contract Officers through quarterly review meetings with the suppliers.
6. Contracts with White Lodge and Disability Challengers to deliver Short Break services were reviewed and awarded as part of the Aiming High Initiative in 2009/10. Both providers took part in a competitive procurement process and the prices compared competitively with others received. The contracts awarded demonstrated value for money and met the quality criteria set out. No inflationary increase has been applied to the prices since the contracts were awarded in 2010.
7. Benchmarking with neighbouring Local Authorities has also taken place, and this has further demonstrated that the prices paid by the Council for Short

Break services deliver good value. Ongoing benchmarking will continue over the next 12 months as part of the commissioning of new services.

8. A Joint Strategic Review of all Short Break services, with NHS Guildford and Waverley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be undertaken. Guildford and Waverley CCG are the lead providers for Children's services on behalf of the six CCGs operating in Surrey. The expectation is that the Joint Strategic Review report will be consulted on in September 2013. This will ensure that any new Short Break services commissioned reflect the requirements of the wider Children, Schools and Families Directorate.

Future commissioning approach

9. Following the extension of contracts a number of different delivery models will be explored and considered. The Children's Social Service Commissioning team, supported by Procurement, will review and revise the current contracts and the current performance requirements and measurements.
10. Work has already started with the Service, Commissioning and Procurement to identify the activities that need to be carried out. Internal and external stakeholders will be engaged and consulted, and the Joint Strategic Review of all Short Break services will also include consideration of joint commissioning arrangements with the CCGs.

CONSULTATION:

11. Internal consultation has taken place within the Service and with the Council's Procurement, Finance and Legal teams.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

12. The Service closely manages the current Contract delivery by way of Quarterly Monitoring meetings ensuring that the services meet the specification and the requirements of the Contract.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

13. The value of the extended contracts will be at the same rate currently paid for the services. There will be no inflationary increase awarded.
14. The total annual value of the extended arrangements with Disability Challengers and White Lodge will be £718,085 and £601,964 respectively.
15. The Service will continue to closely manage the contracts to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the specification and delivering the agreed outcomes. Quarterly Monitoring meetings will take place throughout the year.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

16. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the current funding for the continuation of these contracts into 2013/14 is within the Children's Services budget, agreed as part of the 2013/18 Medium Term Financial Plan. It is acknowledged that the continuation of these contracts is subject to a full review of the service requirements and specifications in the context of the

wider commissioning intentions, during 2013/14. This review will inform a full tender exercise, in readiness for the financial year 2014/15.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

17. These are Part B Services as defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and are therefore not subject to the full requirements of the Regulations in terms of publication of OJEU notices, etc. Nevertheless the Treaty principles should be adhered to in terms of openness, transparency, etc. A contract extension of this nature is therefore contrary to the Treaty principles in that the Council is awarding an extension of existing contracts to the incumbents. However this has to be balanced against the risk of not providing these statutory services. Therefore it is important that the Council can demonstrate an intention to properly commission these services once it has refined its commissioning intentions, with a view to a full tender exercise being undertaken shortly and the term of the extensions sought being limited to the 12 month period.

Equalities and Diversity

18. It is not proposed to alter the services delivered under the proposed contract extensions and therefore a new Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been completed. However a full EIA will be completed as part of the Joint Strategic Review.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

19. With the Cabinet Member's agreement, the contracts with White Lodge and Disability Challengers for the delivery of Short Breaks services would be extended for 12 months until 31 March 2014.
20. Joint Strategic Review of the wider Short Break Services – planned to be completed by June 2013.
21. Possible delivery options, including joint commissioning in regards to the delivery of Short Break Services, developed and consulted on - planned to be completed by Summer 2013
22. The final option of the future delivery of provision agreed and ratified - planned to be completed by September 2013.
23. New service delivery will need to be in place by 1 April 2014.

Contact Officer:

Alys Wood, Category Specialist, 020 8541 8676.

Consulted:

Short Breaks Service Manager;
Head of Social Care Commissioning;
Social Care Commissioners;
Children with Disabilities Service Head,
Interim Children's Category Manager (Procurement),
Acting Head of Procurement
Finance

Legal

Sources/background papers:

None

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