

## Introduction

The following paper provides the Committees with an update on the progress of the Children's Recommissioning Programme, further to the decisions made at the June 2022 Committee.

As requested by committees the paper provides an update on the actions following the decision to seek an extension to the existing contractual arrangements; actions to address the performance and financial concerns of commissioners and the provider; contractual review and monitoring moving forwards as we exit the pandemic and the governance arrangements in place to oversee the programme.

## Contract Extension Update

Post committees' decision the contracting authorities worked with legal advisors to draft a modification notice to the market to advise of the intention to extend the contract for a further period of 12 months to run until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

An approved notice was issued to the market on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August advising of the contracting authorities' intention to enact section 72 of the Public Contracting Regulations to enable the full impact of the pandemic on the future delivery model of children's community services to be understood and reflected in a new model of service delivery to be procured to commence in April 2024.

Following the required standstill period, no query was received by the market in relation to the decision, contracting authorities therefore confirmed to the incumbent provider their intention to extend the contract and are now in a period of negotiation to confirm the details of the extension.

## Performance and Financial Concerns

In response to concerns raised by Commissioners, including representatives of this committee coupled with a formal concern raised by the provider in relation to the service delivery requirements within the available financial envelope, the contracting authorities have agreed to undertake a joint service investigation in relation the services covered by the contract.

The investigation will be overseen by an Independent Chair with appropriate expertise and knowledge of the Surrey system and will cover the following areas:

- Performance & Demand
- Model of Delivery
- Capacity including Workforce

It is anticipated that the review will report to committees at the December meeting and will provide recommendations to address the concerns raised. In addition the impact of known changes within the system will be considered as part of the review to support the work being undertaken to recommission the services.

## Contractual Review and Monitoring

Whilst informal contract monitoring has taken place over the last two years, due to the national guidance in place to support providers in dealing with the response to the coronavirus pandemic, this has not been as detailed as the period prior to the pandemic.

As part of the process for extending the contract, formal contract monitoring processes are being re-established to ensure that the services delivered during the extension period meet the requirements of the contract.

This will formally re-establish the following meetings:

- Contract Review Meetings
- Quality and Performance Meetings
- Data Quality Meetings

Through these meetings the contracting authorities will be able to review, monitor and address concerns in relation to: Quality & Safety, Performance, Information Reporting.

## Governance

In response to the closure of the modification notice standstill period, contracting authorities now have clarity regarding the timelines for the recommissioning programme.

The clarity of the position regarding the extension, enables the formal governance processes to be stood up to support the programme and reflect the timescales for the recommissioning of a new service model ahead of April 2024.

An initial Programme Board will therefore take place in the next month, involving representatives of all contracting authorities and place to ensure inclusion, openness and transparency of the process.

## Recommendations

The Committees in Common are asked to note the progress that has been made since their decision in June 2022 and the next steps in oversight of both the existing contract and the recommissioning programme.