

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:	4644
Author:	Charlotte Dodds
Department:	Finance and Resources
Contact:	Charlotte Dodds (Job Title: Commissioning Officer, Email: charlotte.dodds@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 0115 876 4460)
Subject:	Children's Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service
Total Value:	£320,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	1) To approve the procurement of the Children's Advocacy and Independent Visitor services to award a maximum 4-year contract (1 October 2022 - 30 September 2026) 2) To approve the budget expenditure of up to a maximum of £320,000 ( £80,000 per year) to fund delivery of the services3) To delegate authority to the Director of Commissioning and Procurement to enter into the contract 4) To delegate authority to the Head of Contracting and Procurement to sign the Contract with the service provider.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	The Children's Act 1989 gives the right to looked after children to make representations and complaints to the Local Authority regarding their care arrangements. It also requires a Local Authority to consider the appointment of an Independent Visitor in respect of a child or young person they look after where it appears it would be in the child's best interests to do so.The statutory Children's Advocacy Service provides a service to all children in care who require an advocate to support them with issue based advocacy on referral, residential visiting advocacy to all children placed in residential homes and provision of independent person's at secure accommodation review panels. The statutory Independent Visitor Service provides volunteers who befriend children in care acting as an adult role model taking children out to do recreational activities. Children who are isolated or have minimal family contact are referred by social workers into the Independent Visitor service.The current contracts for the Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services have both been extended in full to 30 September 2022, therefore a re-procurement process needs to be undertaken for a new contract to commence on 1 October 2022.

**Other Options Considered:** Option1: Do nothing. This would result in not recommissioning the Children's Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service and allowing the service to end on the 30 of September 2022. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide a Children's Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service to children in care due to legislation: The Childrens Act 1989 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore this option is not recommended.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Published Works:**

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** None.

**Consultations:** **Date: 25/04/2022**  
**Other:Children in Care Council**  
Children in Care Council consulted, the young people helped formulate a question to ask providers as part of the tender process around building relationships with children and young people. The young people from the group will mark this question as part of the tender evaluation.

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** N/A

**Equality:** Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA advocacy and IV - Final.docx

<b>Social Value Considerations:</b>	N/A
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Portfolio Holder
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	Yes
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	15/06/2022
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity
<b>Legal Advice:</b>	<p>There are no significant legal issues arising from this decision subject to compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contracts Regulations 2015.</p> <p>Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 20/05/2022.</p>
<b>Finance Advice:</b>	<p>The decision seeks to tender &amp; approve a 4-year contract to a maximum value of £0.080m per annum for Children's Advocacy &amp; Independent Visitor Service.</p> <p>The current annual budget provision in the Contract Payments area for this service is earmarked at £0.080m. Procurement will not proceed unless the tender meets the contract envelope value. Therefore, there should be sufficient budget for this proposal in this and future years.</p> <p>Future MTFP decisions will need to take into account the future contract values to ensure the budget is retained to meet the contract.</p> <p>Advice provided by Tania Clayton Perez (Commercial Business Partner) on 25/05/2022.</p>
<b>Procurement Advice:</b>	<p>The Decision to approve the procurement of a four year contract to deliver a Children's Advocacy and Independent Visitor Service is supported by the Procurement Team. The tender process will be managed by the Procurement Team to ensure compliance with procurement legislation and provide value for money. Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 10/05/2022.</p>
<b>Equality and Diversity Advice:</b>	<p>There are no impacts to any of the protected characteristics, I am therefore happy to sign off. Advice provided by Rosey Donovan (Equality and Employability Consultant) on 30/05/2022.</p>
<b>Signatures</b>	<p>Cheryl Barnard (Portfolio Holder- Children, Young People, Schools)</p> <p>SIGNED and Dated: 07/06/2022</p> <p>Mel Barrett (Chief Executive)</p> <p>SIGNED and Dated: 07/06/2022</p>