

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

<b>Reference Number:</b>	1910
<b>Author:</b>	Nick Orders
<b>Department:</b>	Children and Families
<b>Contact:</b>	Nick Orders (Job Title: Youth Justice Innovation and Change Specialist, Email: nick.orders@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158764116)
<b>Subject:</b>	Youth Offending Team contract extension for Passages - a programme for hard to reach young people
<b>Total Value:</b>	£70,000 (Type: Revenue)
<b>Decision Being Taken:</b>	To approve dispensation from Contract Procedure rule 5.1.2, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, to extend the existing contract arrangements with Passages for one year with effect from 1 April 2015 at a cost of £70,000, to allow for a commissioning review to take place.
<b>Reasons for the Decision(s)</b>	<p>Following the disturbances in Nottingham in 2011, and some serious incidents in the following months, the Youth Offending Team employed an organisation, Passages, with the aim of engaging hard to reach young people, helping to promote positive factors leading to a desistance in criminal behaviour. Passages is described as:</p> <p>A risk reduction programme for young men involved in violent offending, drug dealing and gang culture. It works particularly for those whom statutory agencies find "hard to engage" and offers one to one intervention. As well as structured group activities it delivers this through a pro-social programme, engaging with the developmental phases of young men who have had poor role models, and have developed ant-social, anti-authority attitudes. It operates very much 'outside office hours' with the local community, making strong use of information to support positive outcomes.</p> <p>There have been some encouraging testimonies from service users about the work delivered through the programme, indicators of reduced subsequent offending and there have been no related serious incidents with this complex and risky group since that time. However the outcomes of the programme are to a degree unquantifiable. To avoid destabilising this programme but ensure that we address regulations and have appropriate scrutiny it is proposed that the programme is maintained whilst a commissioning review is undertaken to inform next steps and compliance.</p>

**Other Options Considered:** 1. Continuing as at present was rejected as a commissioning review is required to establish the efficacy of the current provider and to explore other possible options available.  
2. Cancelling the arrangement with the current provider was rejected as this could destabilise the current situation and leave the Youth Offending Team without options for working with a particularly difficult group.

**Background Papers:** None

**Published Works:** None

**Affected Wards:** Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** N/A

**Dispensation from Financial Regulations:** Yes

**Consultations:** Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:** The programme has been employed to specifically target hard to reach young people at risk of committing serious crimes.

**Equality:** EIA not required. Reasons: This decision allows for the continuation of the service pending a commissioning review.

**Social Value Considerations:** N/A

**Decision Type:** Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:** Yes

**Call In Expiry date:** 08/04/2015

**Advice Sought:** Legal, Finance, Procurement

**Legal Advice:**

The decision raises no significant legal issues. The Council may grant a dispensation from its Financial Regulations (including its Contract Procedure Rules) for operational reasons. As the contract is below value in respect of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 there is considered to be no risk of challenge.

However, it is advised that clear contractual provisions are in place to govern the service delivery, including a detailed specification and service levels in order to assist in any review.

Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 26/03/2015.

**Finance Advice:**

It is proposed to extend the existing contract for Passages, which is a programme provided to the Youth Offending Service working with hard to reach young people , for one year with effect from 1st April 2015.This will allow for a commissioning review of the service.

The annual cost of contract is £70k for which there is provision within the Youth Offending Services 2015/16 budget.

This proposal seeks dispensation from Contract Procedure rules (5.1.2) in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, and is appropriate in these circumstances.

Advice provided by Stephen Lynk (Finance Analyst) on 26/03/2015.

**Procurement Advice:**

This proposal seeks dispensation from Contract Procedure rules (5.1.2) in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29. It is proposed to extend the existing arrangement for Passages, to allow for a commissioning review of the service.

It is advised that the review should be completed in time to allow for any resulting procurement activity to be completed within the period of the extension.

Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 26/03/2015.

**Signatures**

David Mellen (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)

SIGNED and Dated: 27/03/2015

Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)

SIGNED and Dated: 27/03/2015

Geoff Walker (Acting Head of Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations

SIGNED and Dated: 27/03/2015

Chief Financial Officer's Comments: Extension for one year only with effect from 1st April 2015 which will allow the for a commissioning review of the service to take place during 2015/16. Theresa Channell