

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Reference Number:	2251
Author:	Rasool Bibi Gore
Department:	Children and Families
Contact:	Christine Oliver (Job Title: Snr Performance Policy and Governance manager, Email: christine.oliver@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158765725)
Subject:	Extending the Safer Stronger Families Contract
Total Value:	£525,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To extend the Safer Stronger Families contract for a further two years at a cost of £105,000 per year. To approve dispensation from contract procedure rule 5.1.2 in accordance with financial regulations 3.29, to extent the contract with the current provider.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	<p>The current contract period is from October 2014 until September 2017. If permission is given to the Director of Public Health to extend, then the contract period could be from October 2014 until September 2019. The cost of the total contract period (October 2014 - September 2019) would be £525,000.</p> <p>The safe from harm review recommended that the Crime and Drugs Partnership develop a joint commissioning approach in relation to the commissioning of all domestic and sexual violence services. This was supported by Executive Board Commissioning Sub-Committee (December 2013) and the Health and Well Being Board (8th January 2014). This has now been developed. To realise the full potential of joint commissioning there is a need to bring all contracts to the same timescales. This should lead to a reduction in management costs and strengthen the pathway for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.</p> <p>The ambition for the future is to commission all appropriate services as one large contract. This will not be possible unless all current contracts expire at the same time. In the meantime, there is a legal requirement this year to commission some of the services, which are due to expire this year. This has therefore led to the need to seek permission to extend for a further two years the Safer Stronger Families so it has the potential to be in line with the other contracted services.</p> <p>The current contract for Safer, Stronger Families service was awarded as a result of a compliant competitive tender process in 2014 and was awarded to current provider in October 2014. The current contract does not allow for an extension and therefore approval is being sought for the permission to extend.</p>

Other Options Considered: Not to extend Safer Stronger Families contract for a further two years. This is not being recommended as it would mean that this contract could not be part of a large commissioning contract in the future as it would not run to the same timescales as the other contracts. Not extending the contract could limit the efficiencies that could be made as part of one contract and limit the outcomes that could be achieved for citizens by joining up the domestic sexual violence services.

Background Papers: None

Published Works:
1) Executive Board Commissioning Sub-Committee, 11 December 2013 - Safe From Harm Strategic Commissioning Review - Domestic Violence Crisis Provision Services
2) Health and Wellbeing Board, 8 January 2014 - Safer From Harm Strategic Commissioning Review Outcomes

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Dispensation from Financial Regulations: Yes

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

Crime and Disorder Implications: The service complies with S17 of the Crime & Disorder Act, meeting contractual requirements to engage with appropriate agencies with regard to any anti-social behaviour associated with the service.

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: An EIA is not required as the decision is concerned with a continuation of a service delivered by the existing provider and an EIA was undertaken in 2014 before the contract was awarded.

Social Value Considerations: None

Regard for NHS Constitution: Local authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the NHS Constitution when exercising their public health functions under the NHS Act 2006. In making this decision relating to public health functions, we have properly considered the NHS Constitution where applicable and have taken into account how it can be applied in order to commission services to improve the health of the local community.

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 25/11/2015

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The decision set out in this report is requiring a dispensation in order to extend the current contract.

The Council may grant a dispensation for operational reasons. The reasons set out in the report are to ensure alignment with the wider strategic decision to carry out joint commissioning of domestic and sexual violence services. The value of the contract, including the proposed extension period is below the thresholds set out within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and therefore not subject to the full EU requirements. As such the decision can on this occasion be supported by Legal Services.

Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 25/06/2015.

Finance Advice:

The Safer Stronger Families service is funded by Public Health.

Recent government announcements have indicated a reduction in the Public Health budget. At this time no indication has been made as to how this will impact local authority Public Health budgets.

A number of Public Health funded services have been identified as being able to achieve savings to reduce the overall budget gap of the authority. The Safer Stronger Families service is not part of the current savings plan. The extension of the current contract will bring it in line with other contracts and enable efficiency savings to be achieved when retendering.

Advice provided by Dee Fretwell (Finance Analyst) on 10/06/2015.

Procurement Advice:

There are no significant procurement concerns with this decision.

The request to dispense with Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 and agree a contract extension for 2 years is supported for the operational reasons set out in the report.

The current contract was recently awarded as a result of a compliant tender process. The expiry date is now to be brought into line with other related Domestic and Sexual Violence services. Any future requirements will be reviewed prior to expiry in 2019 and must be procured in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules.

Advice provided by Dawn Cafferty (Procurement Category Manager) on 17/06/2015.

Signatures

Alex Norris (PH for Adults, Health and Community Sector)
SIGNED and Dated: 17/11/2015
Alison Challenger (Director of Public Health (Interim))
SIGNED and Dated: 16/11/2015
Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 02/10/2015
Chief Financial Officer's Comments: