

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

2592

Author:

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Department:

Children and Families

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Subject:

Hard to Reach/Hard to Place Engagement Programme

Total Value:

£42,120 a year for 3 years totalling £126,360 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

Due to recent budget pressures faced by the Youth Offending Team (YOT), along with an increased need to provide support to young people who are hard to accommodate in Care, permission is sought for an arrangement whereby the two services (Children in Care/Placements Service and the YOT) employ a service provider in a combined arrangement.

To dispense with Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 as the provider of a current YOT programme is preferred due to their track record of engaging those young people who have had poor role models, and have developed anti-social, anti-authority attitudes.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

In response to the 2011 disturbances in Nottingham and serious incidents in the following months, the Youth Offending Team (YOT) employed Passages - an organisation with the aim of working with those young people whom statutory agencies find hardest to engage in order to promote desistance in criminal behaviour. At this point, the Passages programme was a "risk reduction programme" for young men involved in violent offending, drug dealing and gang culture." The Passages programme offered one to one intervention through a pro-social model, promoting positive factors and based on the developmental phases of young people. Along with encouraging testimonies from service users, indicators of subsequent offending reduced and there have been no related serious incidents with this complex and risky group since the engagement programme commenced. The attached case studies describe service users whose offending behaviour has reduced following Passages intervention. Since 2011, the provider has continued to engage with referred young people despite decreased funding and an increase in the scope of referrals from the YOT.

Since April 2015, the YOT has worked with Passages to provide better detail of the interventions it has with young people, ensuring quantifiable outcomes. The current provider has also employed female staff in order to effectively work with young females as well as young males. The service specification will stipulate targets, outcomes, referral and monitoring processes as well as detailing safeguarding, health and safety and staff training requirements. Partnership working with organisations already involved in a team around the child/young person will also be included in the specification.

Going forward, the proposal is that the YOT share a contract with Children in Care/Placements Service therefore broadening the scope of referrals to include working with young people who are difficult to engage with whilst in care or to support an alternative to care. This would include children in residential / foster care in Nottingham City, those who have been placed outside of Nottingham but are returning to the area as part of a planned package of support or move to semi independence provision, those who are not engaging with traditional support services and / or present risks in relation to offending, missing from home, CSE, etc. It would also include children / young people who are being considered as part of the re-ablement project through "Big Ticket" in terms of looking at sustainable alternatives to commissioned placement options with a view to reducing the substantial overall children in care budget. The current provider is preferred due to their local connections and to ensure continuation of the current programme, thereby avoiding destabilising the positive progress already made. It is anticipated that the referrals from the Placements service would be young people already known to YOT therefore increasing value for money by reducing duplication.

**Briefing notes documents:**

Passages case studies (3).docx

**Other Options Considered:**

- 1) Do nothing - This option was rejected as this could destabilise the current situation in Nottingham and leave the YOT without options for working with a particularly difficult group.
- 2) Go out for tender - This option was rejected based on their knowledge of local communities and the level of proven engagement by Passages with young people in Nottingham. There is evidence which suggests that this engagement would cease should the provider change.
- 3) - Separate contracts with separate providers - this option was rejected as it is believed that additional referrals from Placements service would be young people already known to YOT therefore increasing value for money by reducing duplication.

**Background Papers:**

Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy, 2015 Update, One Year On (attached).

<b>Unpublished background papers:</b>	<b>Commissioning and Sufficiency Strategy - One Year On Update 2015 (2).pdf</b>
<b>Published Works:</b>	<b>None.</b>
<b>Affected Wards:</b>	<b>Citywide</b>
<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	<b>None.</b>
<b>Dispensation from Financial Regulations:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Consultations:</b>	<b>Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.</b>
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	<b>This programme has been employed specifically to target hard to reach young people at risk of committing serious crimes.</b>
<b>Equality:</b>	<b>Please login to the system to view the EIA document: EIA.pdf</b>
<b>Social Value Considerations:</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	<b>14/09/2016</b>
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	<b>Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity</b>
<b>Legal Advice:</b>	<b>Financial Regulation 3.29 allows for dispensation from the provisions of CPR 5.1.2 on certain limited grounds. The report author advises that dispensation is sought here on the ground of operational issues. Advice provided by Sarah O'Bradaigh (senior solicitor) on 19/07/2016.</b>

**Finance Advice:**

It is proposed to enter into a 3 year contract to provide support to young people who are difficult to accommodate in care. It is estimated that the contract will cost £42,120 per annum, which totals £126,360 over the 3 years of the contract. The cost will be shared between the YOT and Placements Services, for which there is budget provision. Dispensation from contract procedure rule (5.1.2) in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.2.9) is requested and is appropriate in these circumstances

Steve Lynk - Finance Analyst  
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1st July 2016  
 Advice provided by Stephen Lynk (Finance Analyst) on 01/07/2016.

**Procurement Advice:**

The proposal to direct award this three year contract to the named provider for the reasons detailed in this decision, does not exceed the threshold for the EU Procurement Regime / UK Public Contract Regulations. Therefore, dispensation from the provisions of the Contract Procedure Rules (5.1.2) in accordance with Financial Regulation (3.29) (Operational Issues) is supported from a procurement perspective. Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 27/06/2016.

**Equality and Diversity Advice:**

The proposal offers enhanced opportunities for specific BME communities prone to over-representation in the criminal justice system a vehicle for diversion and improved outcomes in life. Robust and effective monitoring systems will need to be in place to ensure that all useful data is captured, which in turn should inform work with new vulnerable groups e.g. 'young girls at risk'. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 18/07/2016.

**Signatures**

David Mellen (PH Early Intervention and Early Years)
SIGNED and Dated: 07/09/2016
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)
SIGNED and Dated: 31/08/2016
Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 16/08/2016
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: