

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	3113
Author:	Celina Adams
Department:	Strategy and Resources
Contact:	Celina Adams (Job Title: Commissioning Manager, Email: celina.adams@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158764923)
Subject:	Children's Homecare
Total Value:	£160,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To approve the allocation of funding for a Children's Homecare service for 1 year with the option to extend for 1 year at a cost of £80,000 per annum. (Total potential cost of the contract: £160,000)2. To grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, to directly award a contract to Carers Trust East Midlands for the delivery of Homecare for 1 year with an option to extend for 1 year.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Homecare is provided to families of disabled children and provides practical care in the home to support parents with day to day caring duties. The service supports children and young people with social care, continuing care needs and/or complex health needs and enables the children and young people to live at home as independently as possible. Currently this service is delivered by a nursing service at a high cost. Homecare support does not actually require nursing care as it is more about short breaks, helping children to get ready for school or helping in the evenings.

After previously attempting to commission by inviting Expressions of Interest through the existing Homecare framework, a lack of market interest required that the care be commissioned through the nursing agency to avoid family breakdown. The current cost of commissioning the nursing care is causing service pressures whilst only supporting 5 families. It is anticipated that this block contract will support around 18 families. Carers Trust East Midlands have expressed an interest in a block contract and can deliver at a guaranteed capacity at a cost which is within the cost envelope.

The value of this contract already exists within the Short Breaks budget. This decision is for approval to allocate the value of this contract from that budget.

The future requirements of this service will be considered with a view for the service to be delivered in-house. The contract award on the basis of 1+1 year will allow for an in-house option of service delivery to be explored.

Other Options Considered:

1. Do nothing: The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (1970) imposes a specific duty on local authorities toward disabled people of all ages. If the local authority identifies that a disabled child will need a service from the list at section 2(1), they must provide the service. Therefore Nottingham City needs a cost effective service to provide for practical assistance in the home.

2. To procure a Children's Homecare service through a competitive tender process: Consultation with the market has demonstrated little interest in a Homecare package of low value, therefore, it is not advised to undergo a lengthy and costly procurement process.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor
Interests:**

**Dispensation from Financial
Regulations:**

Yes

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder
Implications:**

None.

Equality:

Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Homecare EIA signed Dec17.pdf

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

27/03/2018

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

The proposals in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported. The Council is legally obliged to provide care to disabled children and this service of delivering care to children in their home supports this duty whilst providing as much independence as possible to those in receipt of care.

It is understood that the existing provision is not economically efficient and expressions for interest to deliver this service failed to identify suitable providers. A direct award to Carers Trust East Midlands who have showed interest in offering a short term block contract will ensure continued service delivery to the service users at lower costs than previously incurred under the existing arrangement.

The service is considered to fall under the Light Touch Regime under the procurement regulations and falls below the relevant thresholds. Given the previous attempts to procure a new provider, the short term nature of the contract and the potential to explore in-house delivery options for this service, dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29 (operational issues) is supported. Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screatton (Solicitor) on 09/01/2018.

Finance Advice:

The Children's Homecare service will be funded through existing Disabled Children's Service budget provision included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

This decision delivers value for money as the report author anticipates that more families will be supported within the proposed contract arrangements for no additional cost. Arrangements should be put in place to monitor and maximise service provision within the proposed block contract. The longer term commissioning of this service will consider an in-house option and will be subject to an options appraisal and approval through the appropriate governance process.

This decision requires dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules (5.1.2) in accordance with Financial Regulations 3.29, and considering the reasons detailed by the report author and the legal and procurement advice provided, is deemed appropriate in these circumstances.

Advice provided by Darren Revill (Senior Commercial Business Partner) on 21/02/2018.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

There are no significant quality issues identified by the continuation as it ensures services to a vulnerable group Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 15/01/2018.

Procurement Advice:

Following an unsuccessful Expression of Interest Process carried out in 2017, to secure a provider of Children's Homecare, the decision to grant dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, to directly award a contract to Carers Trust East Midlands for the delivery of Children's Homecare for 1 year (with option to extend for 1 year) is supported by Procurement. Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 08/01/2018.

Signatures

David Mellen (PH Early Intervention and Early Years)
SIGNED and Dated: 20/03/2018
Helen Jones (Director for Adult Social Services (DASS))
SIGNED and Dated: 15/03/2018
Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 15/03/2018
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: This DDM has been agreed in conjunction with financial advice.