

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Communities	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 16th May 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E3457
TITLE:	Bath West Children's Centre Service Procurement	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1. THE ISSUE

- 1.1 In July 2022, approval was given via Single Member Decision and Contracts Panel exemption to directly award the Bath West contract to Action for Children from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, in order to align commissioning intentions with wider strategic aims.
- 1.2 We now need to start the process to re-commission the service through a competitive tender to ensure a new contract is in place to deliver services from 1st April 2024.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Council Member is asked to;

- 2.1 Give approval to go out to tender for a Bath West Children's Centre Service from 1st April 2024

3 THE REPORT

3.1 The Bath West Children's Centre and their parent/carers who are at risk of experiencing poor social, developmental and emotional outcomes.

3.2 Referrals are made to the service where additional, complex needs are emerging which cannot be met solely by health visitors or other universal services,

or where the family situation has become more complex but needs do not meet the threshold for statutory or specialist services. These needs may arise from a range of difficulties or risk factors in a family that are starting to cause concern, including developmental delay, attachment between child and parents/ carers, emotional health and wellbeing, social isolation, mental health of parents (diagnosed or undiagnosed), parental problematic substance misuse, caring responsibilities, problems caused by housing, worklessness or food poverty and Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

3.3 The Bath West Children's Centre Service operates in some of the areas of highest deprivation in B&NES and supports at least 100 families at any one time. COVID and the increased cost of living is contributing to rising numbers of families who need support with children's emotional wellbeing and readiness for school and with support with food and finances.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Community Engagement

The Early Help Quality Assurance Framework includes consulting with young people, volunteers and practitioners delivering early help to ensure that support is accessible, effective and informed by service users. Engagement and consultation with service providers is a key part of the contract management process for all early help targeted support providers and quarterly monitoring includes information on referrals, referral sources, outcomes achieved and case studies. Further consultation with key referrers, wider stakeholders and parent/carers will be undertaken as part of the tender process to ensure that any future service specification addresses any concerns and supports the service to provide the right help at the right time and achieve positive outcomes. The Bath West Children's Centre service will continue to actively engage with residents through their recruitment for volunteers, links with local businesses and fundraising activities.

4.2 Equality Issues

The current and future service is, and will be, accessible and responsive to the needs of all children and young people and their families who are at risk of experiencing poor outcomes irrespective of gender, sexuality, disability, age, ethnic origin or cultural and religious beliefs. The service will ensure that fair access, diversity and inclusion is embedded within the culture of the service, and this is monitored through the Early Help Quality Assurance Framework.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 There are currently no additional resource implications.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the future tender process to commence in 2024.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 Future tenders will adhere to the new national Procurement Policy (PPN) 05/21 where there is a much greater emphasis on Social Value and the B&NES Procurement and Commissioning Strategy objectives which include considering carbon footprint and sustainability impacts of all products and services and encouraging the use of local suppliers to further reduce carbon footprint.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The recommendation to re-commission the Bath West Children's Centre service from 1st April 2024 has been considered and agreed by the Leader of the Council, Chief Operating Officer, Director of Public Health, Director of Children's Services and Education

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Background papers	None
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