

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E3559
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Bath West Children’s Centre Service Insourcing

Decision maker	Cllr Paul May, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services
The Issue	The Bath West Children’s Centre Service is a key part of the Early Help offer for Bath and North East Somerset and is currently provided by a commissioned external organisation (Action for Children). The contract expires at the end of March 2025, and it is recommended to in-source this service from 1 st April 2025, to be delivered by the Council run Bright Start Children’s Centre Services.
Decision Date	5th August 2024
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that the Bath West Children’s Centre Service will be in-sourced from 1 st April 2025
Rationale for decision	<p>The basis for the preferred option is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A children’s centre service delivered by one provider across the whole of B&NES will ensure a consistent offer for families and a straightforward pathway for partner agencies. • A children’s centre service delivered by the Council will help ensure the ability of the service to work flexibly to meet changing needs in the population and emerging Council priorities. • A children’s centre service delivered by the Council across the whole of B&NES will be able to provide cover between areas as required and share buildings, management and administrative resources.
Financial and budget implications	<p>In-sourcing the Bath West children’s centre service is expected to make some efficiency savings, in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing management overhead and building rental costs • Consolidating management and administration of the service • Reducing commissioning resource needed. <p>There will be resource needed from HR, IT and finance to carry out the process of in-sourcing the service, including TUPE of staff, and on-going resource from these departments to support the ongoing service delivery.</p>
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Human Resources; Property; Equality; Corporate; Impact on Staff

Consultation undertaken	Provider organisation (Action for Children), Bright Start Children's Centre Services, Children's Social Care; Other B&NES Services (IT/HR/Finance/Procurement); Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Working group established to consider how well each option could ensure provision of a children's centre service for the Bath West area against a set of criteria, to ensure delivery would meet objectives for service users, partner agencies and the Council
Other options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. De-commission the Bath West Service (remove the service from the Bath West area) – discounted 2. Re-commission the existing model of delivery (re-commission with current service specification to be delivered by an external provider) – discounted 3. Review and Redesign Model of Delivery (re-commission the service in Bath West with a redesigned service specification to be delivered by an external provider) 4. In source the service (to be delivered as part of Bright Start Children's Centre Services) <p>The first two options were discounted, due to the need and demand for a service in the Bath West area, the changing needs of the population and a desire to continue to align the Bath West service and the children's centre service delivered across the rest of B&NES.</p>
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	None

Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	Cllr Paul May Cabinet Member for Children's Services
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Date of Signature

05/08/2024

Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision