

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 09 AUGUST 2016

CONTRACT FOR A SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICE

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - CHILDREN AND LEARNING

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval for Angus Council to award a contract to Speech and Language Therapy NHS Tayside for the provision of a speech and language therapy service to Angus Council. The report also seeks approval for the contract to be awarded without a competitive tendering exercise being undertaken.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee approves the award of a contract to NHS Tayside for the provision of a speech and language therapy service to Angus Council.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.
- Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The provision of a speech and language therapy service for pre-school children and those children enrolled in Angus Council schools is made in terms of the provisions of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (amended in 2009).

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 A number of pre-school children and children enrolled in Angus Schools have been identified as having additional support needs impacting on their wellbeing with identified need for speech and language therapy.

4.2 Angus Council's policy of inclusive education means that children with speech, language and communication needs are, in the main, educated in their local school or a specifically resourced school in their town.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed to award a contract to NHS Tayside for the provision of a speech and language therapy service to Angus Council .It is proposed to award the contract without a tendering exercise being undertaken. Our internal market intelligence indicates that NHS Tayside are the only single organisation with the capacity in terms of volume and breadth of services offered who can deliver this service in Angus. If they

were not used then we would be require to enter into contracts with a number of separate providers which would not be cost effective. The Council's Exemption Co-ordinator has been consulted regarding this and is supportive of the proposal.

5.2 The aims of the speech and language therapy service are to:

- Respond to requests for assistance and assess impact on wellbeing and provide assessment and interventions and/or signpost to other appropriate support.
- Provide training and support to staff and parents/carers.
- Provide direct and indirect interventions to develop communication skills in children showing phonological disorder/delay, fluency, specific language impairment, language delay, mental health, autism spectrum disorder, complex needs, neonatology, hearing impairment, alternative and augmentative communication, dyspraxia, cleft palate, eating and drinking disorders.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The value of the contract for the provision of a speech and language therapy service is £195,964.

Account has been taken of this in the additional support needs budget provision for 2016/17.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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