

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 13 JUNE 2017

CONTRACTS WITH VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND FOR THE PROVISION OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE 2017/2018

REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

This report seeks committee approval of the proposed contracts with the voluntary sector providers for children's services. It also provides details of other third party agreements for information. The report also seeks approval of the proposed rates of payment and contracts for providers of Early Learning and Childcare Services without a tendering exercise taking place.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Children and Learning Committee:

- (i) approves the contracts for children's services with voluntary sector providers for 2017/18 as detailed in this report and authorises the Head of Corporate Quality and Performance to enter into these contracts on behalf of Angus Council; and
- (ii) approves the award of contracts to providers of Early Learning and Childcare services (nurseries and playgroups) for 2017/18 as detailed in Appendix 2 to this report without a tendering exercise taking place - on the grounds set out in Financial Regulation 16.24 - and authorises the Head of Corporate Quality and Performance to enter into these contracts on behalf of Angus Council.

2 ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT AND THE STATEMENT OF AMBITION FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF ANGUS

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement.

We have a sustainable economy with good employment opportunities

We have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced.

Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services.

The report also contributes to meeting the commitments set out in the Statement of Ambition for the Children and Young People of Angus.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The provisions of Section 4 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 allow a local authority to make arrangements for assistance in the performance of the functions by organisations or persons who are able to do so. Every year, Angus Council enters into a range of contracts with a number of voluntary sector service providers to carry out these functions.
- 3.2 These contracts facilitate the provision of a number of essential services through partnership working. Working in partnership with the voluntary sector is essential to the provision of effective and efficient services and brings added benefits for the people of Angus in terms of sharing skills and experience; generating new insights and solutions; and attracting additional sources of revenue funding. In a number of instances, external funding from other agencies is obtained by the providers on the strength of the commitment shown by Angus Council.
- 3.3 It should also be noted that the services provided under the contracts are subject to the

monitoring arrangements as set out in corporate standards. In addition all contracts require regular reporting on the level and quality of services provided which is actively monitored by staff within Children and Learning.

- 3.4 The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out entitlement for eligible 2 year olds, 3 and 4 year olds to 600 hours of early learning and childcare. These 600 hours encompass play, learning, social relationship, emotional and physical wellbeing. As of 1 August 2017 we will have 33 partners delivering these services. All three and four year olds are eligible for a funded place. Children who are 2 years old and whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits are also eligible for funded places.
- 3.5 On 9 August 2016 the Children and Learning Committee approved Report No 271/16 which proposed the award of contracts to providers of Early Learning and Childcare Services without a tendering exercise taking place on the basis that this would allow time for the carrying out of a full competitive tender exercise for the supply. The scope and extent of the services to be included in the tender are dictated by the recommendations of the Early Years Strategy. The timescale for the completion of the Early Years Strategy has been extended with a consequent effect on the timescale for the tendering exercise which has not yet commenced.
- 3.6 The Early Years Strategy is being submitted to the committee for approval at the same meeting as this report and its approval will allow commencement of the tendering exercise for the contracts with providers of Early Learning and Childcare. If the Early Years Strategy is not approved we will begin the tendering exercise for the existing provision.

4 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The level of funding for 2017/18 is in line with the budget measures agreed by Angus Council in Report 59 /17 in February 2017. As a result all contracts with voluntary sector providers have been increased in value by 1.5%.
- 4.2 The funding provided by each agency is shown separately in each contract.
- 4.3 The rates to be paid to pre-school providers will also be increased by 1.5%. Provision for this uplift was agreed as part of the 2017/18 revenue budget – Committee Report 59/17 item (5j) refers.

5 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed to enter into the contracts with voluntary sector providers as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 5.2 It is proposed that for 2017/18 contracts will be entered into with the nursery and playgroup providers listed in Appendix 2 at the rates stated below without a tendering exercise being undertaken on the grounds set out in Financial Regulation 16.24 that this will allow time for the carrying out of a full competitive tender exercise for the supply. The Council's Exemption Co-ordinator has been consulted regarding this and is supportive of the proposal.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The total value of the contracts with voluntary sector service providers is £547,231 the funding sources are shown in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Total Cost	£547,231
Funded by:	
NHS Tayside	£26,278
Revenue Budget	£520,953

- 6.2 The contracts with the early learning and childcare providers are on a spot basis therefore the contract values cannot be estimated at this time. It is proposed that the rates shown in Table 2 below are paid for 2017/18.

TABLE 2

Age	Rate per Hour
Three and Four Year Olds	£3.53
Two Year Olds	£6.51

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:.

- Report No 59 /17 Provisional Revenue Budget and Savings Proposals

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Appendix 1

The proposed spend on contracts with voluntary sector providers for children amounts to £547,231. This is broken down per contract as below. Please note activity levels for 2016/17 are not yet available therefore those for 2015/16 are given. It should be noted that those contracts marked * are subject to a high level discussion regarding the possibility of a pan-Tayside approach to strategic commissioning.

Angus Special Playscheme Funding for 2017/18 - £28,980

Playschemes for children with disabilities aged 5 to 18 and youth scheme for young people with disabilities aged 12 to 18

Activity	2014/15	2015/16
Number of children receiving a service	28	35

Barnardo's Family Service Angus (refocused service) and Family Group Conferencing* Funding for 2017/18 £290,141

To support children most in need to enable them to stay in their local communities.

To support carers in meeting the needs of children recovering from abuse and neglect.

(£13,108 of this funding is provided by NHS Tayside.)

Facilitate Family Group Conferences to develop care and support plans for young people who are or are at risk of becoming looked after and accommodated

Activity	2014/15	2015/16
Number of referrals	43	57
Family Group Conference referrals	30	39

Homestart Angus*

Funding for 2017/18 - £71,731

Support for families with children under-five. (£13,170 of this funding is provided by NHS Tayside.)

Activity	2014/15	2015/16
Number of referrals	76	87
Number of families receiving a service	116	139

Parent to Parent*

Funding for 2017/18 - £35,947

Support and advice for parents of children with additional support needs.

Activity	2014/15	2015/16
Referrals - Support and advice to families	51	68
Referrals - Young persons advocacy	29	47

Web Project -Streets Ahead Project
Funding for 2017/18 - £54,417

Provision of an intensive assessment, interventions and care service to young people aged 14–25 years who have problems as a result of substance misuse
Education, advice and support to young people aged between 18–25 who are at risk in relation to sexual health.

Activity	2014/15	2015/16
Total number of new referrals	32	30
Total number of education sessions	7	6
Total attendance	184	434

Who Cares? Scotland*
Funding for 2017/18 – £40,070

Advocacy and representation for young people and corporate parenting. Please note, this contract currently being reviewed to provide reduced service with reduced funding.

Activity	2014/15	2015/16
Number of young people seen	23	4

Relationship Scotland Family Mediation Tayside and Fife
Funding for 2017/18 - £6,463

Support and counselling for divorced or separated couples and their children

Activity	2014/15	2015/16
Total number of referrals	86	68
Total number of mediation sessions	45	41

Blind Children UK (Previously Guide Dogs for the Blind)
Funding for 2017/18 - £19,482

Habilitation for young people, advice and referral to other agencies as appropriate. Advise & support parent/carers and professionals in relation to this service

Activity	2014/15	2015/16
Number of cases opened	N/A	34

Dundee City Council – Kings Park School

Agreed unit cost per pupil £35,000 per place up to 12 places with an additional £10,000 per place for each additional place.

Appendix 2

Nursery	Cluster
Abbey Playgroup	Arbroath
Condor Playgroup	Arbroath
Friockheim & Kinnell Church Playgroup	Arbroath
Hayshead Playgroup	Arbroath
Helping Hands Nursery	Arbroath
Inverbrothock Playgroup	Arbroath
Ladybird Playgroup	Arbroath
Little Rascals	Arbroath
Muirfield Playgroup	Arbroath
Sunshine Play School	Arbroath
Rosemount Little Rascals	Arbroath
New Friends Nursery	Brechin
Playspaces	Brechin
Smallworld Nursery	Brechin
Edzell Playgroup	Brechin
Playspaces Private Nursery	Brechin
Panmure Pre-School	Carnoustie
Scallywags Children's Nursery	Carnoustie
Jack & Jill's Elite Nursery	Forfar
Charleston Playgroup	Forfar
Letham Playgroup	Forfar
Mothergoose Playgroup	Forfar
Chimes Playgroup	Forfar
Stepping Stones Playgroup	Forfar
Newtyle and Eassie Playgroup	Kirriemuir
Tiddlywinks Nursery	Monifieth
Busy Bee Holding Limited	Monifieth
Grange School Playgroup	Monifieth
Ferryden Playgroup	Montrose
First Steps Nursery	Montrose
Hillside Playgroup	Montrose
Lochside Playgroup	Montrose
Rompers Private Nursery School	Montrose
Little Beehives	Montrose