

CABINET MEETING – 16 JANUARY 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Sure Start Review and Integrated Early Intervention Service – Proposals to extend Childrens Centre Commissioning Arrangements for a further 12 months from 1 April 2013

Author(s):

Executive Director Children’s Services

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval to extend Children’s Centre commissioning arrangements for a further 12 months from April 2013. This will allow Children’s Local Area Boards, established in September 2012 to be fully involved in the shaping of future children’s centre service delivery and to consider alternative models for delivery as appropriate.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) approve the proposal to extend external contracts for service delivery in Children’s Centres for a further 12 months from April 2013 in line with the request of Children’s Local Area Boards.
- (ii) receive a further report on the outcomes of the review of the commissioning arrangements at the appropriate time.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes/No

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The extension to external contracts will allow the Children’s Area Local Boards to make a thorough assessment of the current external commissioning arrangements and the impact that these services are having on outcomes for children and their families.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The Boards could propose to de-commission external contracts from April 2013 and to undertake a full re-commissioning exercise for future years. However the Boards have requested extension arrangements in order to undertake a full review of current provision.

Impacts analysed:

Equality Privacy Sustainability Crime and Disorder

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the 28 Day Notice of Decisions? Yes

Scrutiny Committee

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SURE START REVIEW AND AN INTEGRATED EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE – PROPOSAL TO EXTEND CHILDREN CENTRE COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS FOR A FURTHER 12 MONTHS FROM 1ST APRIL 2013

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval to extend Children's Centre commissioning arrangements for a further 12 months from April 2013. This will allow Children's Local Area Boards, established in September 2012 to be fully involved in the shaping of future children's centre service delivery and to consider alternative models for delivery as appropriate.

2. Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- (iii) approve the proposal to extend external contracts for service delivery in Children's Centres for a further 12 months from April 2013 in line with the request of Children's Local Area Boards.
- (iv) receive a further report on the outcomes of the review of the commissioning arrangements at the appropriate time.

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Cabinet received a report on 5th September 2012 which set out progress on a number of areas identified in the review of services previously funded by the Sure Start and Early Years and Childcare Grant. This included the new model of service delivery for Children's Centres, the review of all commissioned services and the proposed introduction of 5 Local Area Children's Boards which were established in September 2012.
- 3.2 Prior to April 2012 a fundamental review was undertaken of all commissioned services both external and internal. This involved some de-commissioning of services which were no longer appropriate and a review of service specifications for service provision that was continuing to focus more on outcomes for children and their families. Contracts were originally awarded for a period of 12 months to April 2013 to allow the Children's Local Area Boards to review commissioning arrangements against local need and influence future commissioning decisions. Externally commissioned services are as follows:
- The Community Involvement Contract focusing on parental involvement in children's centres
 - Mobile Creche provision to support parents attending training and parenting programmes;

- Portage services providing support for very young disabled children and their families within their homes;
- An enhanced safety equipment contract to provide equipment in the homes for families eligible for this support;
- Health co-ordination and health care assistant roles to provide health related services within the Children's Centres and targeted outreach;
- Early Years Mental Health Services as part of the wider Tier 2 CAMHS contract.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 The five Children's Local Area Boards were established in September 2012, developed from the existing Children's Centre Local Advisory Boards. Representation on these boards includes parents from the local area, health and social care representatives, local headteachers, childcare providers, community and voluntary sector groups. The five council members who chair the People Boards are also members of the Children's Local Area Boards, as agreed by Cabinet in September 2012. This has enabled formal links to be made between arrangements for the children's centres and the People Boards.
- 4.2 The five Children's Local Area Boards are now fully up and running in each of the locality areas. One of the first tasks for the Boards has been to review externally commissioned services as outlined in 3.2 above. An analysis has been undertaken of the data available to determine whether services are meeting the needs identified in the needs assessment and whether the service provision is able to evidence improving outcomes. The Boards have also examined where there may also be gaps identified in provision in order to inform future commissioning intentions. Furthermore there is a proposal to further review internally delivered services such as the Early Intervention Team, the Child and Family Support Service and Qualified Teacher Support from April 2013. As a result of the above activities the Boards have requested that external contracts be extended for a further 12 months to April 2014 to allow a full understanding of the effectiveness of all service delivery in meeting outcomes and making a difference for families in Sunderland.

5. Reasons for Decision

- 5.1 The extension to external contracts will allow the Children's Area Local Boards to make a thorough assessment of the current external commissioning arrangements and the impact that these services are having on outcomes for children and their families.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 The Boards could propose to de-commission external contracts from April 2013 and to undertake a full re-commissioning exercise for future years. However the Boards have requested extension arrangements in order to undertake a full review of current provision.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The overall value of the externally commissioned contracts is £720,000. Funding for externally commissioned services forms part of the overall funding for early years, childcare and early intervention within Children's Services. Should Cabinet agree to extend the contracts for a further 12 months, an exercise will be undertaken with providers to realise efficiencies where appropriate in 2013/14 in line with the Budget Planning Framework.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 Current contracts allow for a further 12 months extension period.

9. Equality Assessment

- 9.1 An equality assessment will be completed by each of the Boards in their review of current arrangements.

10. Relevant Consultations

- 10.1 Consultation with service users will be undertaken as part of the review of services.

10. Background Papers

Cabinet Reports: November 2011/ February 2012/ September 2012

