

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

14TH APRIL 2011

SUBJECT:	EXTENSION OF CHILDREN'S PREVENTATIVE SERVICE CONTRACTS
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	SHEILA CLARKE
KEY DECISION	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Elected Members to extend the following specialised contracts for one year to 30th June 2012 after which they will be included in the commissioning of the Early Intervention Grant. These contracts are currently extended to June 2011 as agreed by Cabinet.

Table 1.2

Contract Area	Organisation	Cost	Statutory Duty
Engagement, Inclusion and Advocacy	WIRED	£316,993	Yes for SEN Parent Partnership and Choice Advisor
Young Runaways, children at risk of sexual exploitation	Barnardo's	£169,000	Yes
Independent Visitors	WIRED	£42,000	Yes
Advocacy of Looked after children	SCS (Safeguarding Children's Services) Kinder	£61,956	Yes
Contract Carers	Action for Children	£191,635	No

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 That the 5 specialist contracts set out in 1.2 are extended until 30th June 2012 to ensure continuity of service for those vulnerable groups of children and young

people and to allow for time for these contracts to be part of the next commissioning process.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 The commissioning/procurement of the new Early Intervention Grant is now under way and has target areas of Parenting/Compromised Parenting, Short Breaks and Improving Behaviour. These target areas do not capture the services provided in respect of Engagement, Involvement and Advocacy, Independent Visitors, Looked after Children Advocacy, Young Runaways/children at risk of sexual exploitation or the Contract Carers Scheme. The services provided are specialised and would need further consultation and development before being included the new EIG commissioning process.
- 3.2 When the original contracts were drawn up they did not have a clause 1.b which allows for a 12 month extension on satisfactory delivery, impact and evaluation.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The contract for Engagement, Involvement and Advocacy was originally procured as part of the Children's Trust Arrangement for joint planning across the 0-19 age range. This meant combining many funding sources targeted at preventative and parenting services in order to consider the implications of funding decisions on the whole system.
- 4.2 WIRED as new providers have had to establish new relationships and build confidence with parents and children with a disability/learning difficulty. Included in this contract is the Council's Statutory Duty to deliver both the SEN Parent Partnership and the Choice Advisor.
- 4.3 Through contract monitoring this organisation has established their work, has built confidence and relationships and is making an impact by improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 4.4 The contract of Children at risk of Exploitation, Committing Sexual Offences and Runaways from Home or Care being delivered by Barnardos who were successful in an open tender process
- 4.5 This organisation has begun to establish their work, built confidence and relationships and is making an impact by improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 4.6 The contract of Independent Visitors is currently being delivered by WIRED and this service is specifically targeted at looked after children as specified in The Children Act 1989 Schedule 2 sections 17(1) to 17(7)
- 4.7 The purpose of this service is to benefit looked after children and young people, specifically targeted at those placed out of borough and on Wirral who are aged between 6-21 years, who have not been visited by either a parent or person with parental responsibility for them during the previous six months.

- 4.8 The contract for the Looked after children Advocacy Service is currently being delivered by SCS Kinder and this service is to provide an Advocate for looked after children who are currently in a care home or foster placement in Wirral and outside of the Council's geographical boundaries.
- 4.9 This is to ensure that these young people's voices are being heard, also effective inter agency working and an increase in awareness by staff in both statutory and voluntary agencies of the issues raised with regard to this group of children.
- 4.10 The contract for Contract Carer Scheme is part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children and was awarded to Action for Children. Due to difficulties with recruiting carers, which is a national problem, this has meant that they have been unable to deliver within the current timeframe. An extension and action plan with Action for Children has been agreed to ensure deliver of outputs and outcomes for this programme.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 These are specialised services and when previously commissioned there were very few organisations that had the expertise or capacity to deliver. There would be a risk that the most vulnerable children and young people would not receive a much needed and timely service.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The option of creating a new tender process was considered but rejected in line with the above risks.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 As part of the original Tenders a consultation process took place with both children, young people and Parents/carers which contributed to 20% of the final score decision. Also each organisation has signed up to Wirral Charter of Participation and it is part of their quarterly monitoring arrangements.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 Each of the Contracts has been part of an open commissioning process and the contracts are presently being delivered by the voluntary, community and faith sector. This is Compact compliant as it continues to support capacity within this sector.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 See 5.1 Relevant Risks

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Corporate Procurement has considered and has not identified any legal implications.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 In developing the priorities for commissioning these contracts it included help to address the needs of these most vulnerable groups.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required? No

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 These contracts will have a significant impact on community safety implications specifically in relation to young runaways and children at risk of sexual exploitation and will continue work closely with the Police and the Community Safety Team.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet Decision	13th December 2010
Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny	15th March 2011
Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny - Areas for Development 0-19 Commissioning	16th March 2010