
Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	16 December 2013
Subject	Permission to request extension on contracts for Stonegrove Children's Centre and the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)
Report of	Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families
Summary of Report	<p>This report seeks approval and the necessary waivers of the Contract Procedure rules to extend two contracts with:</p> <p>Barnet Pre-School Learning Alliance (BPSLA) for Stonegrove children's centre from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.</p> <p>Central London Community Healthcare (CLCH) NHS Trust for Family Nurse Partnership from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.</p>
Officer Contributors	<p>Stuart Collins, Head of Service, Family Support and Early Intervention Service</p> <p>Jody Nason, Business Manager, Family Support and Early Intervention Service</p> <p>Sue Hillsden, Early Years Services Manager, Family Support and Early Intervention Service</p>
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	Yes
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Not applicable
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	None
Contact for Further Information:	Jody Nason, Business Manager, Family Support and Early Intervention Service - 020 8359 7540

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 1.1 Approves extension of two contracts for a year (from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015) as follows:
 - Barnet Pre-School Learning Alliance (BPSLA) for Stonegrove children's centre for £328,795
 - Central London Community Healthcare (CLCH) NHS Trust for Family Nurse Partnership for up to a value of £150,000
- 1.2 Approves a waiver of Contract Procedure Rules to enable the extension of the existing contracts to enable continuity of service delivery for the reasons set out in paragraph 8.5 below.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Stonegrove Children Centre

- 2.1 Cabinet Resources Committee 25 February 2013, Commissioning of Stonegrove Children's Centre
- 2.2 Cabinet Resources Committee 17 July 2012, Decision item 6: Consultation on proposed changes to the funding formula of Children Centres
- 2.3 Cabinet Resources Committee 28 February 2012, Decision item 24: Consultation on proposed changes to the funding formula of Children Centres
- 2.4 Cabinet Resources Committee 14 February 2011, Decision item 5 C: Proposed reduction and redesign of Children's Centres and related services in Barnet

FNP

- 2.5 Delegated Powers Report 1639, 30 March 2013, Early Intervention and Prevention Services – Family Nurse Partnership
- 2.6 Family Focus: Early Intervention and Prevention Services for Children and Families in Barnet, December 2011.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The services for consideration will contribute towards the priority outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan 2013-2016:
 - to create better life chances for children and young people across the borough
 - to promote family and community well-being and encourage engaged, cohesive and safe communities.
- 3.2 Services will also contribute to the priorities outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan 2013-2016:
 - engage families early to ensure children have happy lives at home
 - Provide high quality health services for mothers and young children
 - Ensure children in need of support are identified early and appropriately supported in their early years

- Take a whole family approach to improving outcomes for children and young people
- Strengthen early identification and intervene early to improve life chances for those living in the most difficult situations
- Ensure that the families of children and young people at risk of under achievement support their learning at home.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 The extended funding of the contracts will not carry additional risk to the Council, as the terms and conditions of the contracts will remain the same as currently agreed and delivery volume will increase and improve.
- 4.2 BPSLA directly manages Stonegrove Children's Centre and CLCH NHS Trust delivers the FNP programme whereby both will continue to provide services for the Family Support and Early Intervention Service.
- 4.3 The contract is otherwise in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution. Details are provided below in section 8 (Constitutional Powers).
- 4.4 In accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and to ensure value for money, the contract with BPSLA to manage Stonegrove Children's Centre and CLCH NHS Trust to deliver the FNP will continue to be performance managed throughout the term of the contract using a robust monitoring system.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Equality Act 2010 requires that a public body in the exercise of their functions must have due regard to the need to: (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between the different groups; and (c) foster good relations between different groups. The Council has considered the potential impact on the protected groups, pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, and is of the view that extended funding will facilitate better services for a larger number of Barnet residents.
- 5.2 Service users will be able to access services, irrespective of their ethnicity, religion, disability, age, gender, or other differences. This will be checked during regular performance monitoring of contracts which measures service-user profile. Where monitoring data identifies hard-to-reach communities who are not being sufficiently supported, plans to refocus delivery will be implemented with providers.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 The existing 2013/14 contract value for Stonegrove Children Centre is £293,040 and is funded from the Family Support and Early Intervention Service budget.

The total value of the contract extension for 2014/15 is £328,795 and will be funded from the Family Support and Early Intervention Service budget for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 and can be contained within the overall budget for this area.

The total proposed contract value including extension is £621,835 to 31 March 2015, the contract end date.

Summary of values

Period	Contract value	Notes
2013/14	£293,040	Existing contract
2014/15	£328,795	Requested extension
Total	£621,835	

The reason for the increase in the contract amount from the previous year would be in relation to Children's Centres with childcare seeing a reduction in their funding allocation, as a result of the redistribution of the childcare subsidy.

The redistribution of funding would have changed how the budget was allocated across all thirteen Children's Centres, and will have meant that over time some will have seen an increase in their funding whilst others would have seen a decrease from September 2012.

Previously the thirteen Children's Centres and eight linked outreach venues were funded with a budget of £4,300,000. This remained the same for the financial year 2012/13. The £4,300,000 budget was redistributed to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable families. Children's Centres continue to receive a childcare subsidy (on a sliding scale) until the financial year 2014/15.

- 6.2 The current year existing 2013 to 2014 contract value for FNP is £150,000. The Barnet Council contribution has been funded from the Family Support and Early Intervention Service budget. During the same time period, NHS England has also funded Family Nurse Partnership in Barnet through a separate contract to the value of £150,000 per annum and will continue to fund at the same level.

Summary of values, LBB funding

Period	Value	Notes
2012/13	£150,000	Existing contract
2013/14	£150,000	Existing contract
2014/15	Up to £150,000	Maximum value of requested extension, subject to funding

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 There are existing contracts, between the Council and BPSLA, dealing with the management of the Stonegrove Children's Centre, by BPSLA, on behalf of the Council. These cover the period 2013-2014 and specify the terms and conditions for provision of the services.

The Council and CLCH NHS Trust hold a contract for the delivery of FNP. This contract covers the period 2012 to 2014 and specifies the terms and conditions for provision of the services. The Family Support and Early Intervention Service in conjunction with the Public Health team are managing the contract for the duration of the project and undertake quarterly monitoring and evaluation meetings.

- 7.2 The formal contract extension agreements will need to be executed by both the council and BPSLA and the council and CLCH NHS Trust and should be approved by HB Public Law
8. **CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)**
- 8.1 Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions – paragraph 4.6 states the terms of reference of the Cabinet Resources Committee.
- 8.2 Council Constitution, Contract Procedure Rules - paragraph 14 Extensions and Variations sets out that contract extensions are subject to the following:
- 14.3 Contracts may only be extended or varied if all of the following conditions have been met:
- the initial contract was based on a Contract Procedure Rules compliant competitive tender or quotation process;
 - the value of the extension or variation added to the value of the original contract does not exceed the original Authorisation threshold as defined in Appendix 1, Table A;
 - the extension or variation has an approved budget allocation;
 - the extension or variation is in accordance with the terms and conditions of the existing contract;
 - if the initial contract was subject to EU tender procedure, that the extension option was declared within the OJEU notice and the original Acceptance (Delegated Powers Report/Cabinet Resources Committee Report); and
 - the contract has not been extended before;
- 8.3 The Council's Contract Procedure Rules under paragraph 15, Waivers provides that:
- 15.1 In the event that the application of these rules prevents or inhibits the delivery or continuity of service, Directors or Assistant Directors, Lead Commissioners and Heads of Service may apply for a waiver. All applications for a waiver of these Contract Procedure Rules must be submitted to Cabinet Resources Committee specifically identifying the reason for which a waiver is sought, including justification and risk.
- 15.3 Inadequate planning and organisation of resources does not constitute an acceptable justification for a waiver.
- 15.4 Any waiver can only be granted for a maximum period of 12 months and will count as a variation.
- 8.4 A waiver is sought for the Contract Procedure Rules 14.3 as the initial contract was awarded outside of these rules (please see above 8.2) as the initial contract was not based on a competitive tender or quotation and the contract does not provide for an extension period. For 2015/16 the outcome of the Early Years review will determine the

model of delivery of Children's Centre and Health services that will influence future commissioning.

- 8.5 The contract extensions comply with paragraphs 15.3 and 15.4 of Contract Procedure Rules. BPSLA have historically been awarded an annual SLA, renewed at the end of each year and CLCH NHS Trust was previously awarded a 24 month contract. Both of these contract extensions are for a maximum period of 12 months.. The contract does not provide for an extension period after the end of the 12 month period (March 2015). Officers formalised this arrangement from 1 April 2013.
- 8.6 The time afforded by these contract extensions will be used to enable officers to undertake competitive tender process as stated in 8.4 while ensuring there is no gap in service provision.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

9.1 Stonegrove Children Centre

The Family Support and Early Intervention Service in Barnet Children's Service have commissioned BPSLA to directly manage and have managed Stonegrove Children's Centre since 2008.

- 9.2 Barnet Council has a current signed service level agreement/contract with BPSLA for the period 1 April 2013 ending on 31 March 2014.

- 9.3 An extension is requested for a period of twelve months from 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015, with values as set out in Section 6 of this report. This is to allow time for the re-commissioning process to be undertaken appropriately and to ensure there is no gap in services. Allowing the extension of this contract will ensure that any changes in children's centre service delivery following the completion of the Early Years Review are considered and adhered to from April 2015 and beyond.

- 9.4 For the financial year 2015/16 and beyond the management of Stonegrove Children's Centre will be tendered in line with Contract Procedure Rules. The current provider is expected to choose to take part in the procurement process.

9.5 Early Years review

Under the Early Years review one of the key objectives for Children's Centres is to implement a more joined up approach to early years provision, improving relationships with other professionals, improving early years Ofsted ratings and ultimately improving support for parents and young children. This is broken down further into three areas:

- Collaboration agreements between Children's Centres will be built into Service level agreements in 2014/15. This will retain the widespread local delivery of services but work to identify how resources can be most effectively managed across the borough
- Developing closer working relationships with Health partners to improve referral routes and information sharing to best support families
- Better understanding for adult services that are supporting higher risk parents of the services on offer within the Family Support and Early Intervention Service.

9.6 Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)

In April 2011 the council submitted a partnership bid with NHS Barnet to the Department of Health for the FNP, and were accepted into the FNP programme in May 2011. The council requires delivery of FNP which is an evidenced based, preventive, early intervention programme for vulnerable young first time mothers. It offers intensive and structured home visiting, delivered by specially trained nurses, from early pregnancy until the age of two.

We know that early intervention as provided by the FNP programme can help young parents to look after their children better, and can help break inter-generational patterns of disadvantage. It can improve the health and wellbeing of the parents themselves reducing smoking during pregnancy, coping better with pregnancy, labour and parenthood and improving confidence and self-esteem. The programme begins in early pregnancy and is orientated to the future health and well-being of the child. It is a nurse-led intensive home visiting programme aimed at making a difference and to fill a gap in the continuum of the progressive universal Healthy Child Programme (HCP) which links into the wider Early Years review (see 9.5).

The Government wants to double the capacity of FNP by 2015. The council would like to request to extend this contract for an additional year to ensure continuity of service until the wider roll-out of FNP in 2015, for which it is expected there will nationally identified funding for.

At present, the Council has a two year contract (from 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2014) with CLCH for Family Nurse Partnership, and it is proposed to extend this for a year up to March 2015 with values as set out in Section 6 of this report.

CLCH NHS Trust would carry out the service as detailed in the Service specification in accordance with the FNP Licensed Programme. Changes to this agreement would only be valid if agreed and signed by the representatives. The FNP will work closely with Children's Centres to plan services to meet the needs of this vulnerable group and encourage teenage mothers to access mainstream services at the earliest opportunity.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	JH
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	SD

