



## CHIEF OFFICER DELEGATED POWERS REPORT

<b>Title</b>	<b>Transfer of Early Years standards provision to Cambridge Education</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Strategic Director, Children and Young People
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
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### Summary

Following the decision at Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee to enter negotiations with Cambridge Education to enable delivery of the Early Years Standards provision, including services currently provided through a Service Level Agreement with the Barnet Early Years Alliance (BEYA), via the strategic partnership with Cambridge Education and to enter into contractual arrangements as appropriate, those negotiations have been concluded and this report is the delegated decision of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People to proceed with the transfer, following consultation with the Chairman of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee.

### Decisions

1. That the Council enter into contractual arrangements via the strategic partnership with Cambridge Education to deliver the Early Years standards provision, including services currently provided through a Service Level Agreement with the Barnet Early Years Alliance.

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

At the meeting of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the following recommendation was agreed: 'That the Committee delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Children and Young People to enter negotiations with Cambridge Education to enable delivery of the Early Years Standards provision, including services currently provided through a Service Level Agreement with the Barnet Early Years Alliance (BEYA), via the strategic partnership with Cambridge Education and to enter into contractual arrangements as appropriate, following discussion with the Chairman of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee.'

- 1.1 The Council has been negotiating with Cambridge Education about how it will deliver these functions from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. These negotiations have been concluded and it is now recommended that the Council enter into contractual arrangements via the strategic partnership with Cambridge Education to deliver the Early Years standards provision, including services currently provided through a Service Level Agreement with the Barnet Early Years Alliance.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Business Planning report that went to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on the 29<sup>th</sup> November recommended that the Committee consider indicative savings proposals for 2019-2024 of £9,793,000. This included a saving proposal of £150,000 by transferring the functions associated with the Early Years Standards Team and the two Service Level Agreements between the team and BEYA to Cambridge. The negotiation has concluded and proceeding with the transfer of these functions will deliver the saving proposal required.
- 2.2 Transferring these services to Cambridge Education will provide a consistent and seamless approach to maintaining high education standards from early years until year 13. It will consolidate support for early years standards within Cambridge Education's Barnet School Improvement Team and integrate this with the management and support systems available to support standards in schools. Cambridge Education will be able to provide the services required and deliver the savings over the next 2 years required by the council.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The other option considered is to continue to deliver the early years standards service in-house and to continue with the BEYA SLA. This option would not deliver the benefits set out above.

#### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 A staff consultation on the TUPE transfer will run from the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019.
- 4.2 The services and budget will transfer to Cambridge Education on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

##### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The quality of the education and early years offer is at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study. It plays a crucial part in making Barnet family friendly, with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools and early years provision.
- 5.1.2 This project supports the Corporate Priority in the draft 2019-24 Corporate Plan, to 'support children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning' and 'improve pupil's achievement' by providing a consistent and seamless approach to maintaining high education standards from early years until year 13

##### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 The current budget for the Early Years standards team and BEYA SLAs is £560,000. This will be reduced by £75,000 when it transfers on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 and a further £75,000 in 2020, in line with the MTFS proposal.
- 5.2.2 The budget is from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Early Years Central Expenditure. DSG central expenditure is subject to approval from schools forum on an annual basis.

##### **5.3 Social Value**

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.
- 5.3.2 Under the Contract Procedure Rules, the appropriate documentation for this decision is via a Officer Chairman DPR template given that the delegated powers was agreed by the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee as referred to under section 1 of this report.

## **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.5.1 There is the ability for the Council to request Cambridge Education to deliver education related services, which these services are, as part of the change procedures under the contract. A service specification and Key Performance Indicators for the services being transferred have been agreed and have been added as an addendum to the contract. T

## **5.5 Risk Management**

- 5.5.1 Any risks identified to delivery against the specification for the transferred services, or to delivery of the savings, will be managed through the existing arrangements for the Cambridge Education contract. Cambridge Education maintain a risk register in relation to the delivery of the council's objectives of the strategic partnership which is reviewed by the Contract Monitoring Board, chaired by the council's Commercial Director.

## **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.6.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision-making of the council. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty, requires elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place.
- 5.6.2 An assessment of the equality implications for the transfer of early years services to Cambridge Education is that it will impact on younger children and their families to a greater extent than the wider population and the equality implications will be neutral, as despite the saving, Cambridge Education is better placed to deliver an integrated service, so it is anticipated that this will provide a more joined up service at a lower cost. The equality implications will be kept under review and taken into account as the proposal is implemented.

## **5.7 Corporate Parenting**

- 5.9.1 In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. The outcomes and priorities in the refreshed Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, reflect the council's commitment to the Corporate Parenting duty to ensure the most vulnerable are protected and the needs of children are considered in everything that the council does.

## **5.8 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.8.1 Public consultation with residents and businesses on the overall budget for 2019-2024 ran from 12 December 2018 to the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019. There were no responses regarding the proposal to transfer the early years services.
- 5.8.2 The Chairman of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee has been consulted on this proposal and is in agreement.

5.8.3 Following this decision, consultation with staff about the TUPE transfer will begin on the 28th January and run to the 27<sup>th</sup> February.

## 5.9 **Insight**

5.9.1 A range of data and information was used to develop all of the MTFS proposals.

## 5 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Business Planning 2019-2024 report for Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s49917/Business%20Planning%20report%20for%20Children%20Education%20and%20Safeguarding%20Committee.pdf>

Chairman: Councillor David Longstaff  
Has been consulted

Signed: Cllr David Longstaff

Date 22/01/19

Chief Officer: Chris Munday- Strategic Director, Children and Young People  
Decision maker having taken into account the views of the Chairman

Signed : Chris Munday

Date 22/01/19