

Report to CABINET

Reduced Public Health funding investment to the All-Age Early Intervention contract from 1 April 2025

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Shaid Mushtaq – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Councillor Barbara Brownridge - Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

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Date: 3 March 2025

Reason for Decision

To approve the implementation of the revised contract value for the All Age Early Intervention service (AAIE) from 1 April 2025 by means of a deed of variation to the existing contract. This reduction has been approved by Cabinet on 18 November 2024

The current agreement has an initial contract period of 5 years from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025 with the option to extend for up to 2 years. This report also seeks approval to exercise the option to extend up until 31 December 2027.

Recommendations

To approve the implementation of the revised contract value for AAIE from 1 April 2025 by means of a deed of variation to the existing contract.

To approve the implementation of the option to extend up until 31 December 2027 as outlined in the original tender and award.

Reduced investment to the All-Age Early Intervention contract

1 Background

- 1.1 In 2020, a full tender exercise was undertaken to procure an All-Age Early Intervention service. In line with Corporate Procurement Rules (CPR), the contract was awarded to Positive Steps commencing 1 January 2021 for an initial five-year term with an option to extend by up to a further two years.
- 1.2 The AAEL service provides support for families with children as well as individual adults and adult-only households. The service works with clients requiring support whose needs are not sufficiently complex to require statutory safeguarding interventions through children's or adult social care.
- 1.3 In relation to families with children, the highest usage of the service is from residents requiring guidance on parental behaviour including support to manage children's development, behaviour, routines. The second highest usage is from residents requiring support with low level mental health concerns, finance/debt management needs, and housing concerns. The service takes referrals from schools, health services, police, internally from children's social care and self-referrals.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 In November 2024, Public Health submitted a paper to Cabinet outlining a number of investment areas of the Public Health Grant. Due to budget pressure and financial shortfalls to provide services in line with the grant conditions, the paper proposed a reduction in a number of investment areas which Cabinet approved. The budget reduction to the AAEL service was one of the areas that Cabinet agreed to proceed with.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 **Option 1** – to implement the previously approved revised budget from 1 April 2025 for the AAEL service through the issuing of a deed of variation and to exercise the option to extend up until 31 December 2027 as outlined in the original tender and award.
Option 2 – decision to implement revised budget is not implemented meaning approved savings will not be realised increasing budget pressures on the Council

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 **Option 1** - to implement the previously approved revised budget from 1 April 2025 for the AAEL service through the issuing of a deed of variation and to exercise the option to extend up until 31 December 2027 as outlined in the original tender and award.

5 Consultation

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- 5.1 A paper was approved by Cabinet on 18 November 2024 on the proposal for revised allocation and budget reductions to various services internally and externally commissioned through the Public Health grant. The AAEL service was one area that was agreed by Cabinet for a budget reduction.

Initial conversations have taken place with the Chief Executive and Senior Team of the provider to appraise them of the situation from 1 April 2025. Public Health, Early Help and Children and Young People's Commissioning leads were involved. Negotiations are underway to implement the budget and agree revised KPIs and Public Health framework outcomes to be achieved within the new financial envelope. The Council and the Service will work in partnership to review the associated KPI's proportionate to the revised budget for 1 April 2025.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

8 Procurement Implications

Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

9 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

- 9.1 Contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

10 Key Decision

- 10.1 Yes

11 Key Decision Reference

- 11.1 HSC-01-25

12 Background Papers

- 12.1 Contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

13 Appendices

- 13.1 None
