

REPORT TO:	Leader of the Council 20 December 2021
SUBJECT:	Variation to Extend Child Development and School Readiness Services (4 contracts)
LEAD OFFICER:	Debbie Jones, Interim Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education Shelley Davies, Director of Education Shelley Prince, Head of Service Children’s Integrated Commissioning & Procurement
CABINET MEMBER:	Alisa Flemming Children, Young People & Learning
WARDS:	South of the borough: New Addington North; New Addington South; Selsdon & Addington Village; Selsdon Vale & Forestdale; Sanderstead; Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown; Purley & Woodcote; Kenley; Coulsdon Town; Old Coulsdon
<p>COUNCIL PRIORITIES Croydon Renewal Plan</p> <p>These services are aligned to the council’s new priorities and ways of working in which we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live within our means, balance the books and provide value for money for our residents • Focus on tackling ingrained inequality and poverty in the borough • Follow the evidence to tackle the underlying causes of inequality and hardship, like structural racism, environmental injustice and economic injustice • Focus on providing the best quality core service we can afford. 	

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The proposals in this paper meet the Council's duty to ensure there is provision for statutory early childhood services and meet the criteria for essential expenditure in accordance with Croydon Renewal Plan.

Policy Context

The *Best Start for Life, Early Years Review Report* (March 2021) sets out a new requirement for local authorities to demonstrate how they will improve support for children and their parents during the first 1001 critical days and how they intend to achieve new national goals.

Legislation

Under the provision of the Childcare Act 2006 and Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, the Council has a statutory duty for the provision of early childhood services. The Act requires the Council to:

- Make arrangements to secure that early childhood services are provided in an integrated manner, to facilitate access to those services and maximise the benefit of those services to parents, prospective parents and young children
- Ensure that such consultation is carried out before making significant changes
- Ensure sufficiency of children's centre provision to meet local need.

Croydon Best Start

Croydon Best Start is a partnership approach in delivering statutory early childhood services to support families from pregnancy until their child starts school. Across the partnership, midwives, health visitors, children's centres, early years and the voluntary sector work together to deliver prevention and early intervention to improve children's outcomes, particularly for those most in need.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial value of extending all 4 Agreements and Contracts for the period 1st January to 31st May 2022, if agreed, will cost the Council £202,000. An additional 3 months, to a maximum of 8 months, would cost a further £120,000.

If agreed the Council will be committing to an aggregate spend of £3,706m for the South Locality Children's Centres (£11,943m for all 8 Children's Centres awarded in April 2016 up to and including 31st December 2021, and the proposed value to extend contracts for the South Locality Children's Centres up to May 2022, with the possibility that this may be up to 31st August 2022 as a result of procurement timescales).

The value of each contract type is outlined in the table below:

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Best Start contracts	£'000 Per annum (2021/22)	£'000 Aggregate 5yrs + 9mths (1/4/16 – 31/12/21)	£'000 5mths extension (1/1/22 – 31/5/22)	£'000 Aggregate 6yrs + 2mths (1/4/16 – 31/5/22)	£'000 8mths extension (1/1/22 – 31/8/22)	£'000 Aggregate 6yrs + 5mths (1/4/16 – 31/8/22)
Locality Children's Centres Hubs and Spokes	1,163	8,237		8,237	8,237	8,237
4 Children's Centres (South Locality)		3,383	202	3,585	322	11,943
Total		11,620	202	11,822	322	11,943

- The annual budget for these services is aligned to the Croydon Renewal Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings programme. These proposals seek to extend contracts on the existing budget whilst pursuing in-year efficiencies wherever possible. By seeking a variation to extend, the Council will mitigate the risk of a judicial review; gap in provision and risk to employee employment rights.
- A new and approved procurement strategy will be required to re-tender for these services in February 2022.

FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO: 6921LR

This decision needs to be taken under SPECIAL URGENCY.

REASON FOR SPECIAL URGENCY: This decision could not be reasonably delayed as the procurement for these statutory services closed in October 2021 with no bidders and current contracts come to an end on 31st December 2021 presenting the following risks:

1. Gap in service provision, particularly for vulnerable children, their parents and carers in need of support and those who continue to be affected by the pandemic
2. Risk to employee employment rights as current contracts end on 31st December 2021
3. Judicial review for failing to make available statutory services to support the wellbeing of very young children and reduce inequalities

This statement is produced in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangement) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

Awards made under this delegation will be notified in the standard contracts report at future Cabinet meetings.

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The Leader of the Council has the power to make the decisions set out in these recommendations.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Leader is recommended to approve the 4 contract variations for Best Start South Locality Children's Centres for a period of 5 months (1st January 2022 to 31st May 2022), with the option to extend for a further 3 months for an additional value of £120,000 and an overall maximum contract value of £3,706,000 across the 4 Contracts.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report is seeking a variation to extend the Best Start Contracts and Agreements for the South Locality Children's Centres for a further 5 months from 1st January to 31st May 2022 with the option to extend for a further 3 months should this be required due to procurement.
- 2.2 Child Development and School Readiness services delivered by Children's Centres are part of a wider offer with Parenting Aspirations and Parenting Skills services commissioned through Best Start. Funding for these services are through the General Fund at an annual contract value of £1,432,533 per annum, distributed as follows:

Best Start Services	
Lot 1 Locality Children's Hubs & Spokes	Annual Contract Value
Lot 1a – Kensington Avenue, North locality	£ 339,109
Lot 1b – Selhurst, Central locality	£ 505,741
Lot 1c – Woodlands, South locality	£ 317,683
	£1,162,533
Lot 2 – Parenting Aspirations and Parenting Skills	£ 205,000
Parent Infant Partnership	£ 64,000
Total	£1,432,533

- 2.3 There is a legal requirement on the local authority to secure arrangements for early childhood services for very young children and their families; improve their wellbeing and reduce inequalities. A gap in service would have a significant impact on children's emotional and physical wellbeing outcomes and disrupt support for families, particularly during the first 1001 critical days.
- 2.4 The strategy for the procurement for the new Children's Centre Locality Hub and Spoke model, agreed by Cabinet in July 2021 (reference 2321CAB) ended with no suitable bids for the South locality.
- 2.5 A new contract has been awarded to a new provider in North and Central localities through the procurement strategy (reference 3721CAB) and award

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(reference 5321LR) to the successful bidders. Should the recommendation in this report not be approved, there would be a gap in services in the South of the borough where families would have no access to the support they need, placing additional burdens on more expensive statutory services, leaving the Council exposed to a significant number of risks for the following reasons:

- There is a statutory duty to provide these services
- Complaints from residents who clearly expressed in the public consultation in May 2021, that they wanted services to be accessible, locally
- Lack of consistency of provision, equity for families, leading to poor outcomes for children living in parts of the borough with high levels of deprivation
- Lack of join up and partnership working in localities
- The Council could be exposed to a judicial review and political challenge

2.6 Timelines for governance and a procurement will risk a gap in service provision, exposing the council to the significant risk of litigation due to staff eligible for TUPE, and service user complaints.

2.7 To mitigate this risk and safeguard access to services, in particular for vulnerable families and parents with very young babies, it is recommended to extend the current contracts for up to a period of 5 months (1st January 2022 to 31st May 2022), with the option to extend for a further 3 months to enable continuity of provision and protect staff employment rights.

2.8 A new procurement strategy would be presented for approval to retender for the South Locality Children's Centre Hub and Spokes. The timeline for this is set out at paragraph 4.3.

3. DETAIL

Context

3.1 The redesign of Best Start Children's Centres was approved by Cabinet on 26th July 2021 and the procurement strategy for Croydon Best Start services by CCB on 21st July 2021 (CAB1680/21-22).

3.2 Contracts for these services are required for the delivery of the following shared Best Start outcomes, and those specifically highlighted in bold:

- **Children are prepared and ready for school**
- **Children are emotionally well**
- **Children are healthy and physically well**
- **Children are safe and protected from harm**
- **Parents are self-reliant and have strong and supportive social networks**
- **Parents are emotionally well**
- Parents are healthy and physically well

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- Parents can access employment and training
- **Practitioners are confident and skilled and work together to delivery high quality services**

3.3 Croydon Best Start is a holistic approach to early intervention and prevention to ensure babies, children, mothers, fathers and carers receive the support they need, as early as possible in a child's life, or as concerns emerge, ensuring onward referral or signposting to the services required.



3.4 Established on the principles of co-design and partnership working, the shared Best Start outcomes remain central to our ways of working across an early years partnership to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities.

Current contractual position

3.5 New contracts have been awarded for the North and Central localities, however no provider has been awarded for the South Locality. The Current suite of Best Start contracts come to an end on 31st December 2021 which include these 4 contracts to be extended, leaving the Council exposed to significant risks as outlined above.

3.6 Following Cabinet approval (reference: Croydon Best Start Child Development & School Readiness Services Designated Children's Centres 2016-2018, agenda item 10.2., minute March 2016 A23/16), Contracts and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) were awarded in 2016 to providers of 9 Designated Children's Centres in the London Borough of Croydon. The award was for contracts with an initial term of two years, with an option to extend for a further period of up to 12 months.

3.7 Contracts and Agreements were let in 2016 for 2 years (April 2016 to March 2018) and extended in 2018 following CCB recommendation for approval (CCB ref 1319/17-18, 01/02/2018) for 1 year (April 2018 to March 2019).

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- 3.8 In August 2018 following CCB recommendation for approval (CCB ref 1390/18-19, 31/08/18), the suite of Best Start contracts were extended for a further period of 1 year (April 2019 to March 2020). In January 2020, following CCB recommendation for approval (CCB ref 1549/19-20, 28/1/20), contracts were further extended for a period of 5 months (April 2020 to August 2020). The five month extension allowed for contracts to be aligned to the school budget year September to August.
- 3.9 Recommissioning activity which was planned to take place in 2020, had to be delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic to enable the Council to manage staffing and redeploy resources to critical services for its residents. Pursuant to Part 5 A Article 1.7 (Urgency Decisions) of the Council's Constitution the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Treasury was recommended as the relevant body to approve the extension by way of variation of the Best Start suite of contracts by a further 12 months (1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021) for an aggregate value of £2,810,000 to give a maximum aggregate contracts value of £15,656,000 (CCB ref no 1573/20-21).
- 3.10 The statutory consultation to inform the recommissioning of the Best Start services was delayed from January to May 2021 due to the consultation on the Croydon Renewal Plan and approval of Council. In June 2021 following CCB recommendation for approval (CCB ref CCB1685/21-22) the Best Start suite of contracts were extended for a further period of 4 months (1st September to 31st December 2021) to allow sufficient time for procurement.
- 3.11 The new aggregate value for the whole Best Start Children Centre suite of contracts from 1st April 2016 to 31st May 2022 is £11,822 (up to £11,943 should the further 3 months be required).
- 3.12 The total annual budget in FY 2021/22 for these services for the South Locality is £318,000 (£1,163,000 for 3 Locality Children's Centre Hubs and Spokes).
- 3.13 Contracts and Agreements are with the following providers:
- Oasis Academy Bryon (Oasis Trust): Byron Children's Centre
 - Fairchildes Academy: Fairchildes Children's Centre
 - Purley Oaks Primary School: Purley Oaks Children's Centre
 - Gilbert Scott Primary School: Woodlands Children's Centre

The table below provides a breakdown of the four Contracts and Agreements comprised in the South Locality sub lot since April 2016:

South Children's Centres	Original term 2+1				Extensions				AGGREGATE VALUE Apr 2016 - Dec 2021	Proposed extension Jan 2022 - May 2022 ¹	AGGREGATE VALUE Apr 2016 - May 2022
	Apr 2016 - Mar 2017	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Apr 2020 - Aug 2020	Sept 2020 - Aug 2021 ^{1,2}	Sept 2021 - Dec 2021 ^{1,2}				
Byron Children's Centre	£ 109,887.00	£ 109,887.00	£ 109,887.00	£ 109,887.00	£ 45,786.25	£ 101,455.84	£ 31,422.49	£ 618,212.58	£ 39,278.11	£ 657,490.70	
New Addington Children's Centre	£ 273,718.00	£ 273,718.00	£ 273,718.00	£ 273,718.00	£ 114,049.17	£ 208,426.22	£ 64,552.92	£ 1,481,900.31	£ 80,691.15	£ 1,562,591.46	
Purley Oaks Children's Centre	£ 110,111.00	£ 110,111.00	£ 110,111.00	£ 110,111.00	£ 45,879.58	£ 101,662.66	£ 31,486.55	£ 619,472.78	£ 39,358.18	£ 658,830.97	
Woodlands Children's Centre	£ 118,046.00	£ 118,046.00	£ 118,046.00	£ 118,046.00	£ 49,185.83	£ 108,988.84	£ 33,755.58	£ 664,114.25	£ 42,194.48	£ 706,308.73	
SOUTH TOTAL	£ 611,762.00	£ 611,762.00	£ 611,762.00	£ 611,762.00	£ 254,900.83	£ 520,533.56	£161,217.54	£ 3,383,699.93	£ 201,521.93	£ 3,585,221.85	

¹ Budget reductions applied in September 2020/21 - 3% reduction for Byron, Purley Oaks and Woodlands, 20% reduction for New Addington

² DSG reduction of £250,000 applied proportionately in each contract term

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- 3.14 The 4 Contracts and Agreements for the South Locality are with the following providers:
- Oasis Academy Bryon (Oasis Trust): Byron Children's Centre
 - Fairchildes Academy: Fairchildes Children's Centre
 - Purley Oaks Primary School: Purley Oaks Children's Centre
 - Gilbert Scott Primary School: Woodlands Children's Centre

Service update

- 3.15 The South Locality has mixed demographic with mixed economy of residential housing and levels of deprivation:
- The two wards of New Addington North and New Addington South, almost in their entirety, fall into the 5%-10% most deprived and 10%-20% most deprived areas in the country
 - 5%-10% most deprived area in Selsdon & Addington Village ward
 - 10%-20% most deprived area in Coulsdon Town and Old Coulsdon wards
- 3.16 Central to the proposals in this paper to ensure equity of access to services for all Croydon residents and consistency of provision across localities.
- 3.17 Exit Management planning and mobilisation of services in the North and Central Localities have commenced and the new service is due to go live on 5th January 2022.
- 3.18 The service is working together with the new provider and will act as a conduit between the incumbent providers in the south of the borough to ensure services are consistent.
- 3.19 As the pandemic continues to impact and new restrictions emerge, service delivery will continue to prioritise access to provision for very young babies and those with emerging additional needs, along with targeted outreach to vulnerable families who may feel less confident accessing services.
- 3.20 Improvements in effective partnership working are being accelerated to ensure join up and seamless services for children and families.
- 3.21 Work to develop the Partnership Early Years Strategy is progressing at pace and will align to the *Best Start for Life* agenda for local authorities to:
- Ensure families have access to the services they need
 - Seamless support for families
 - A welcoming hub for families
 - The information families need when they need it
 - Ensure the Start for Life system is working together to give families the support they need
 - An empowered Start for Life workforce
 - Continually improving the Start for Life offer

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- Leadership for change

3.22 An Equalities analysis has been reviewed and will continue to inform where there are significant changes to services and new proposals.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 The redesign of Best Start Children's Centres has been informed by a statutory consultation which took place during May 2021. Outcomes from the consultation will continue to inform where service infrastructure and partnership working needs to improve so families are aware of where they can access help and support when needed.

4.2 The Director of Education has engaged with the incumbent providers explaining the rationale for seeking permission to vary current contracts and extend for a period of 5 months (1st January 2022 to 31st May 2022), with the option to extend for a further 3 months should the procurement process take longer.

4.3 Timescales for next steps:

16 th December 2021	CCB approval of the recommendations to the Leader of the Council to approve the variation to extend contracts to the South Locality Children's Centres for a period of 5 months (1 st January 2022 to 31 st May 2022), with the option to extend for a further 3 months should this be necessary, to mitigate a gap in service whilst approval is sought for re-procurement.
20 th December 2021	Leader's approval of contract extensions
13 th January 2022	The service will be seeking approval of a new procurement strategy for South Locality Children's Centre Hub and Spokes
21 st February 2022	Cabinet endorsement of approved procurement strategy
1 st to 20 th March 2022	Launch tender opportunity

5 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

5.1 The process for awarding these Contracts is to be taken under Special Urgency.

Approved by the Chair of Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

6 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Best Start services are funded from the General Fund and the proposed Agreements and Contracts extensions for the South Locality, are expected to cost the Council an aggregate value of £3,585,000.

The following table presents the revenue consequences on the available budget to fund these proposals. There is no Capital spend associated with this paper.

Revenue consequences of report recommendations

	Current year	Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) - 3 year forecast	
	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	2023/24 £'000
Revenue Budget available			
Expenditure	1,447	1,447	1,447
Income	0	0	0
Effect of decision from report			
Expenditure	(1,806)	1457	1,432
Income	0	0	0
Remaining budget	(359)	(10)	15

6.2 The effect of the decision

There is insufficient budget in FY 2021/22 to support these proposed contract extensions and therefore risks the delivery of the agreed MTFS savings.

The services is looking at a possible efficiencies which may be available to mitigate the risk to the budget, however the risk to future MTFS savings targets for FY 2022/23 and subsequent years remains.

6.3 Risks

The following risks have been identified and are being actively managed within the service:

Risk	Impact	Mitigation
Risk to MTFS if contracts are extended on the current contract price.	Contracts will come to an end before there is time for internal approvals and governance to award new contracts	High This report recommended the decision to extend the contracts are taken under Urgency, mitigating the risks listed in the report, including the risk of

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<p>Further risk to MTFS if we get challenge from North and Central to increase funding to same level as South</p>	<p>Funding would remain at current level for a further up to 5 months instead of moving to the new budget level</p>	<p>having to TUPE staff into the Council pending re-procurement of these services.</p>
<p>Risk of reputational damage as a result of inequity in the budget for delivery in the North and Central Locality areas.</p> <p>Legal challenge from the incumbent providers in North and Central Localities as a result of the recommendations in this paper.</p>	<p>Possible impact on positive relationship issue with successful Tender in the North and Central impacting on delivery.</p> <p>A legal challenge complaint could delay the approval of the new procurement and risk awarding new contracts with the minimum delay.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Early discussions with successful Tender in North and Central to explain decision making.</p> <p>No bids for the South locality Children’s Centre Hub and Spokes were received, the Council have no choice but to recommend the proposals in this report in order to protect these statutory services.</p>
<p>Risk to MTFS for FY2022/23 if the new procurement is unsuccessful.</p>	<p>The tender for these services closed in October 2021 with no bidders due to the potential financial exposure resulting from TUPE transfer and structure required to align the workforce to the new model.</p> <p>In previous years the Council were able to mitigate the financial impact of redundancies for Children’s Centres, however this is no longer possible and therefore this risk remains significant.</p> <p>The previous procurement received a small number of expressions of interest where there was more scope for efficiencies of scale for potential bidders to submit an</p>	<p>High</p> <p>There is some indication that providers may be willing to consider a tender submission if a new procurement strategy is approved.</p> <p>Financial or employment liabilities will need to be considered as a result of the extension. The contract extension will impact on the services ability to achieve its MTFS savings in FY21/22.</p>

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	<p>application for the whole lot to deliver services across the borough.</p> <p>Consequently, the size of the new procurement with no change to the funding envelope may not be of interest to the market.</p>	
<p>Risk to meeting procurement timelines and encountering delays due to pre-election restrictions likely to commence on 30th March until 6th May 2022.</p>	<p>The Council would incur further costs to deliver services in the south of the borough, increasing the risk to MTFs savings for FY2022/23.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>All available provisions for decision making in accordance with the Council's Constitution is being pursued to mitigate this risk.</p>
<p>Risk of no contracts for services from 1st January 2022.</p>	<p>The Council will be exposed to significant risk of challenge due to lack of provision for families, particularly those most in need, increasing potential safeguarding risks, complaints and political fallout.</p> <p>Staff employment rights would be unprotected leaving the Council exposed to legal challenge.</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>The Leader will be asked to approve the variation to extend current contracts to allow time for a new procurement.</p>
<p>Risk that the new service model does not deliver.</p>	<p>The Council could incur increased costs to deliver the service and a corresponding risk to the MTFs savings programme.</p> <p>Contracts awarded would not deliver value for money and result in poor outcomes and increased inequalities for very young children</p>	<p>Low</p> <p>KPIs for these services are included in the Croydon Renewal Plan measures and reporting.</p> <p>Robust contract management is in place. Additional rigor will be provided through scheduled financial contract monitoring</p>

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	and their families.	meetings to ensure value for money. Service plans and additional performance measures and outcomes for children will be reviewed annually.
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6.4 Options

The proposals in this paper are being recommended due to Contracts coming to an end on 31st December 2021. This option, if accepted will allow time to meet internal governance and Council approval of a new procurement strategy and re-tender for the South Locality Children's Centre Hub and Spokes in February 2022.

The alternative option to let contracts come to a natural end has been rejected as this would lead to a gap in service, leaving families with young children with no provision and staff unprotected.

6.5 Future savings/efficiencies

Despite operating in a financially challenging climate, service improvement, efficiency and the delivery of good outcomes for children and their families remain at the heart of Croydon Best Start.

Robust contract monitoring will continue, identifying further efficiencies where possible. If additional savings are required from this budget, this would have such an impact on contract spend and allocation to providers, that this would likely render this the service undeliverable. If that was to happen, an alternative delivery model would need to be developed.

Approved by Phil Herd, Interim Head of Finance, Children, Families and Education on behalf of Richard Ennis, Interim Corporate Director of Resources and s151 Officer

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Interim Head of Commercial & Property Law comments on behalf of the Interim Director of Legal Services that the Leader is being recommended to make this decision due to the circumstances explained in this report. It should be noted that this is a key decision requested to be taken under Rule 32 (Special Urgency) for the reasons set out in this report.
- 7.2 The Council is under a general Duty of Best Value to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness (Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 (as amended by s137 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007)).

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Approved by Kiri Bailey on behalf of Doutimi Aseh, Interim Director of Legal Services.

8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 8.1 This report recommends an extension to a number of existing contracts. Therefore, the service provisions would remain as they are, and there are no human resources or TUPE implications arising from this report.
- 8.2 However, the re-procurement exercise is likely to involve service provision changes which may invoke the effects of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) 2006 Legislation (amended 2014). The service will be working with the current contractors and their HR providers to ensure the appropriate policies and procedures are followed.

Approved by: Deborah Calliste, Head of HR for Children, Families and Education on behalf of the Director of Human Resources

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 9.1 A full Equality Analysis will be updated to reflect the new service delivery plans to ensure outcomes are improved for all groups with protected characteristics. A review of the Best Start registration form will improve the data currently being collected for those with protected characteristics within GDPR guidelines, to improve the future analysis of equalities for children and families using the service.
- 9.2 These proposals will meet the Council's obligations in ensuring equity of access to provision, particularly for those with protected characteristics. By awarding these Contracts the Council will ensure families with children under five can access the services and support they need, reduce inequalities and improve their life chances.
- 9.3 Equalities is a standing item and part of the contract management process. Regular monitoring allows for the early identification of any potential adverse impact on groups that share protected characteristics, enabling opportunities to intervene and avoid any unlawful action and improve outcomes.
- 9.4. Contractors will be encouraged to sign up to the Council's Race Matters and Equalities Pledges and to employ local labour thus meeting one of the Council's priorities of tackling inequalities and reducing poverty.

Approved by D. McCausland – Equality Programme Manager

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10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 10.1 It is considered that there are no increased or decreased negative environmental sustainability impacts, from the proposals contained in this report.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

- 11.1 Supporting families through these services contributes to building resilience and community connections, with the intention to avoid people becoming involved in crime and disorder. Best Start services and partners work together to support children and families exposed to sexual violence and domestic abuse.

- 11.2 It is considered that there are no increased impacts on children and families in these proposals. Approving the recommendations in this report will ensure families are able to access the services when they need them the most.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

- 12.1 To approve the request to vary the terms of the Best Start Child Development and School Readiness services delivered through the South Locality Children's Centres, and extend for a period of 5 months (1st January 2022 to 31st May 2022), with the option to extend for a further 3 months.

13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- a) **Do nothing and let contracts come to a natural end – Rejected**
This would expose the Council to significant risk by having a gap in provision leaving families with young children and the most vulnerable with no access to services or support, and staff rights unprotected.
- b) **Agree to approve the Award of Contracts – Recommended**
This option will ensure the continuation of service provision and reduce the significant risks both economic, political and potential employment litigation, to the Council.

14. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 **WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

YES

The name, age, address and other personal data is used by providers to deliver the service on a day to day basis. Personal information will be shared with partners, as appropriate, as part of a referral to safeguard a child or vulnerable

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adult. All other referrals for additional support will require prior consent of the parent/carer.

14.2 HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN COMPLETED?

Yes

The DPIA is currently being updated to reflect the procured providers' data protection security measures.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None