

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People
Date:	13 January 2021
Title:	Children's Services Procurement – Approval to Spend
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Laura Timms, Head of Commissioning and Service Development

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1. The decision:

1.1. That approval is given for:

- a) A one-year extension of the current contract for Independent Fostering Agencies - Lot 1 Standard Foster Placements including Respite; and Lot 2 Parent and Child. The extension will be from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. Approval is given for additional spend of up to £14,500,000 for the extension of one additional year to be funded from existing revenue budgets.
- b) Spend under the 16+ High Support Needs Accommodation Framework. The value of spend under this framework will be £20,000,000 for the initial four years (to 2025), with an option to extend to a six year term (4 years +2 years), a total spend of up to £30,000,000. This is to be funded from existing revenue budgets.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The Council currently has a framework agreement in place for the provision of fostering placements for children and young people through Independent Fostering Agencies. This is split into two lots, Lot 1 for Standard Foster Placements including Respite; and Lot 2 for Parent and Child Placements.
- 2.2. Lot 1 for Standard Foster Placements including Respite is for children who do not present with complex or challenging needs and behaviours 0-18 years. It is possible that they have experienced placement breakdowns as well as abuse, neglect and loss and may demonstrate some low-level offending and/or challenging behaviours. Some children with disabilities and/or health needs may also require standard foster placements.
- 2.3. Lot 2 Parent & Child Placements are for a parent or parents who need extra support to care for their child or children. The parent(s) are given opportunities to develop their confidence and parenting skills in a family environment.

- 2.4. The framework agreement, through which the external spend is commissioned, is due to end on 31 March 2021. In order to have a new framework agreement in place for April 2021, tendering activity should take place in the Autumn of 2020. However, due to the continued effect of COVID-19 on providers of foster care and foster carers themselves, the market's capacity to tender in Autumn 2020 was severely affected. Using the provision for contract variation under the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 (Regulation 72 (1) (c)), it is intended that the current framework agreement is extended for an additional one year, until 31 March 2022.
- 2.5. The Council plans to tender a new framework agreement and work on this will commence such that a new framework will be in place from April 2022.
- 2.6. The Council has a framework agreement in place for 16+ High Support Needs Accommodation. High Support Needs Accommodation is where young people need over 15 hours of support per week and the provider is able to source accommodation as well as well as provide the support. This could be shared or solo accommodation depending on the young person's needs. This framework agreement commenced on 1 January 2019 and is due to expire 31st December 2022. However, spend under the current framework agreement has exceed expectations and the framework agreement has reached its advertised contract value. As a result, the Council will need to be retendered in order to remain compliant with Public Procurement Regulation 2015 (Regulation 33 (6)).
- 2.7. The Council plans to tender a new framework agreement that will have a limited number of providers, which will enhance partnership and strategic working. This framework agreement will complement other contracted provision for 16+ services, namely supported lodgings, high intensity and floating support services, and a framework agreement for out of county placements.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Hampshire County Council could have chosen not to approve spend. This would have meant commissioning would be outside of the procurement rules and regulations and/or that children and young people do not have placements available when required.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the decision maker:

Approved by:

Date:

Councillor Patricia Stallard
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and
Young People

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