

TITLE	Therapy Services for Children and Young People
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on Thursday, 25 November 2021
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Children's Services - Carol Cammiss
LEAD MEMBER	Executive Member for Children's Services - Graham Howe

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

This report:

1. Seeks approval to proceed with the joint procurement of an Integrated Children's Therapy Service for Wokingham in partnership with West Berkshire and Reading Local Authorities.
2. Outlines the internal governance and oversight of the procurement process and subsequent contract monitoring.
3. Proposes delegated authority for contract award, as described within the recommendations below

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive is asked to agree:

- 1) to undertake a joint procurement exercise for an Integrated Children's Therapy Service for Wokingham with West Berkshire and Reading local authorities;
- 2) that the three local authorities jointly procure as a single lot resulting in a single contract signed by the supplier and the three local authorities;
- 3) to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children's Services, to award the contract to the successful bidder following completion of the evaluation process. The estimated WBC budget is £389,520 per annum.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The SEND Code of practice explains the duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools and colleges to provide for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Council commissions Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Physiotherapy for Children and Young People with an Education Care and Health Plan (EHCP) where therapy has been identified in the Education section of the plan (Section F).

The Council has been exploring the opportunity to work collaboratively with Brighter Futures for Children, Reading and West Berkshire Council to explore a joint commissioning approach for future provision of these services for their local populations. This strategic approach to planning and procuring services in joined up way, is a means for Local Authority partners to deliver value for money, positive outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Following formal exploration of this collaborative opportunity, Officers are requesting approval to proceed with the joint procurement of integrated speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy services which fall under the commissioning responsibility of the local authority, with West Berkshire and Reading. This would be with a view to advertising a contract opportunity in February 2022, with a contract commencement date 1st September 2022. These are specialist professional services that cannot be delivered within existing Local Authority structures.

A single contract will be awarded through competitive tendering (open procedure- anyone may submit a full tender). This approach is likely to achieve value for money due to the competitive element. Commissioners will engage with the market and with local stakeholders in advance and use supplier and stakeholder knowledge and feedback to develop the service specification.

The procurement process will be led by Wokingham Borough Council. The single contract will be signed and administered by a Lead Authority on behalf of the partners.

The current WBC budget contribution is £389,520 per annum. Over a five-year period, this would equate to £1,947,600 and over an eight-year period would equate to £3,116,160. The total current budget contributions of all three authorities equate to £1,061,710 per annum. This would equate to £5,308,550 over a five -year period and £8,493,680 over an eight-year term.

The Executive is asked to agree to this request.

BACKGROUND

The SEND Code of practice explains the duties of local authorities, health bodies, schools and colleges to provide for those with special educational needs under part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

One of the statutory duties of the Local Authorities for children is the provision of therapy services to children where this is identified in the Education section of an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Provision of Therapy Services is a key component of Wokingham's Special educational, health and social care local offer for children and young people in the Borough with SEN and/or disabilities.

The Council commissions a Children and Young People's Integrated Therapy Service (Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy) for children and young people in Wokingham where therapy provision identified in the educational provision section of their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The CYPIT service consists of Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists working alongside assistant therapy staff. The CYPIT service is provided by Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT)

CYPIT is delivered across mainstream schools, resource bases, special schools and academies across the Borough.

West Berkshire Council and Reading Borough Council also commission BHFT to deliver CYPIT services for their local populations under separate agreements.

BUSINESS CASE Please see Business Case attached as Appendix A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	WBC annual budget £389,520 Combined annual budget across Berkshire West £1,061,710	TBC: This answer to this question will be determined via service model/service specification development	High Needs Block (WBC)
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£389,520		High Needs Block (WBC)

	Combined annual budget across Berkshire West £1,061,710		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£389,520 Combined annual budget across Berkshire West £1,061,710		High Needs Block (WBC)
Following Financial Year (Year 4)	£389,520 Combined annual budget across Berkshire West £1,061,710		High Needs Block (WBC)
Following Financial Year (Year 4)	£389,520 Combined annual budget across Berkshire West £1,061,710		High Needs Block (WBC)
Following Financial Year (Year 5)	£389,520 Combined annual budget across Berkshire West £1,061,710		High Needs Block (WBC)
Following Financial Year (Year 6)	£389,520 Combined annual budget across Berkshire West £1,061,710		High Needs Block (WBC)
Following Financial Year (Year 7)	£389,520 Combined annual budget across Berkshire West £1,061,710		High Needs Block (WBC)

Following Financial Year (Year 7)	£389,520 Combined annual budget across Berkshire West £1,061,710		High Needs Block (WBC)

Other Financial Information

A commercial model for this procurement is being developed. The financial information above is based on current budgets and potential changes in budgets may arise due to e.g. inflation and/or changes in need over the lifespan of the contract.

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation

Consultations with Stakeholders and service users will be conducted as part of this procurement. This will include a survey questionnaire for children and young people, parents, carers and guardians and stakeholders across Berkshire West.

Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed on the new service model once it has been developed and after consultation with key partners. No detrimental impacts are anticipated.

Climate Emergency – *This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030*

Officers will refer to the Council's climate change emergency strategy and action plan in the specification documents under the section of relevant policies, so providers are aware of the strategy and can outline how they may contribute

List of Background Papers

Appendix A included (Business Case)

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