

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 06 June 2023

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Children’s Care and Support Services Framework</b>		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All		
<b>Author:</b> Gail Rogers	<b>Job title:</b> Head of Service Children’s Commissioning		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Cllr Asher Craig – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Equalities	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Abi Gbago Executive Director Children and Education		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet			
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> To approve the tender and award of a Children’s Care and Support Services Framework, in order to provide personalised care and support for children, in the family home, in care placements or within short breaks services for disabled children, where existing contractual arrangements are unable to do so.			
<b>Evidence Base:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the past year the Council has experienced high demand for specialist support and care (often nurse-led) for children and young people, often in emergency situations. This includes support delivered in the home, in care placements and in short breaks services for disabled children.</li> <li>2. Urgent and specialist services are used for a small number of children and young people with complex and sometimes challenging needs and behaviours, that can include mental health problems, autism, trauma and attachment disorders and learning difficulties.</li> <li>3. Without using these specialist services these children would otherwise be at risk of entering care (if not already in care), suffering a placement breakdown, or being admitted into Tier 4 mental health facilities. These services support in stabilising the home environment or placement in both the short and long term. This can aide with giving an opportunity to further assess the needs of the child to ensure any future placement is best matched to their individual needs.</li> <li>4. Providers of this type of support are often (but not limited to) staffing agencies who specialise in the provision of registered nurses, including mental health nurses, healthcare assistants and other care/support staff at very short notice in order to create specialist packages of care for children with complex needs, either in the home or in placements elsewhere.</li> <li>5. No existing framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system (DPS) is available at present to enable the Council to purchase the type of care that meets the needs of these vulnerable children due to the specialist services required and the short notice periods given. As such we are currently spot purchasing this support, in contravention of the procurement rules.</li> <li>6. This proposal is to establish a framework for the provision of urgent and specialist support for three years, with the potential to extend for a further 2 years. There is no guaranteed spend under a framework arrangement, but the estimated spend by Bristol City Council over the maximum life of the framework (5 years) will be £12.3m based on 2022/23 spend and forecasting. Spend will be managed within approved budget limits for each service area using the framework.</li> <li>7. The framework contract will include the option to call off block arrangements to secure support services over a longer period of time. Block contracting often offers better value for money and framework providers will be assessed on both quality and price when making block call offs.</li> </ol>			

8. We will procure this framework on behalf of North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils. Adding in their estimated annual spend takes the maximum total contract value to £28m.
9. It is proposed that there will be two lots under the contract:
  - Lot 1: Personalised Care and Support for children with complex health needs
  - Lot 2 : Trauma-informed therapeutic work to support mental health needs and help regulate behaviours
- 9 In procuring this framework we will have a compliant means of responding to need, and reduce the level of risk involved in this area of spend through improved monitoring and quality assurance. This should also increase value for money through a more strategic approach to the market not based on multiple waivers or informal, ad hoc spend.

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

1. Authorises the Executive Director Children and Education in consultation with Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Equalities to take all steps required to procure and award the contract(s) necessary for the implementation of the Children’s Care and Support Services framework including block call off arrangements, in-line with the procurement routes and maximum budget envelope of £28.6m (£12.3m BCC Spend) across five years, to be managed within approved budget limits for each service area using the framework.
2. Authorises Executive Director Children and Education to invoke any subsequent extensions/variations specifically defined in the contract(s) being awarded, up to the maximum budget envelope.
3. Authorises the Executive Director Children and Education in consultation with Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Equalities to take all steps required to enter into an inter-authority agreement with users of the Framework including North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

1. CYP1 Child Friendly City – Children and young people will be cared for and supported in the City they have grown up in and will be supported to overcome adverse childhood experiences.

**City Benefits:**

1. Meet the needs of children in care, children in need and children with disabilities in line with the Children Act 1989 and the Equalities Act 2010.

**Consultation Details:**

1. This report has been developed in consultation with relevant internal staff members including children’s services and procurement.

**Background Documents:**

[Children Act 1989 Part III Support for Children and Families provided by Local Authorities](#)

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£12.3m BCC spend	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	Children’s Placement Budget, Disabled Children’s Service Budget, Area Social Work Teams Budget.
<b>Capital Cost</b>	N/A	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	N/A
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**

**1. Finance Advice:** The proposed framework has no guaranteed minimum spend. The framework should however provide a platform for consistent negotiation and pricing for services. The estimated BCC spend over the 5 year term, based on 2022/23 spend levels, is £12.3m should be managed within approved budget limits.

**Finance Business Partner:** Andrew Osei – Finance Business Partner 25 April 2023.

**2. Legal Advice:** The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

<b>Legal Team Leader:</b> Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 17 April 2023		
<b>3. Implications on IT:</b> I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.		
<b>IT Team Leader:</b> Alex Simpson – Senior Solution Architect 17 April 2023		
<b>4. HR Advice:</b> The report is seeking approval for the tender and award of a Children’s Care and Support Services Framework and there are no significant HR implications arising from this report.		
<b>HR Partner:</b> Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner 24 April 2023		
<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Abi Gbago Executive Director Children and Education	26 April 2023
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Cllr Asher Craig – Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Equalities	26 April 2023
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off</b>	Mayor’s Office	6 May 2023

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>