

SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY PROVISION

REPORT TO; the Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS); Stuart Carlton and the CYPS Executive Member.

DECISION DATE: Tuesday 28 January 2020

SUPPORTING ANNEX; This report includes a supporting Annex which contains exempt information as described in paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Authority directly award the delivery of speech and language therapy provision to Harrogate District Foundation Trust (HDFT). The re-commissioned service will enable delivery of an effective service. The contract will commence 1 April 2020 for an initial term of 1 year, with the option to extend for a further 1 + 1 years.

BACKGROUND TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION

The Authority has a requirement for the provision of speech and language therapy (SALT) for children and young people. It is widely accepted that good language development in children is important for effective long term academic, social and economic participation in society. Poor language outcomes are often evident from school entry and are influenced by a range of known risk factors. Recently early language development has become a focus of both public health and early childhood policy. The Early Intervention Foundation reported a fundamental link between language and other social, emotional and learning outcomes and promoted a call to action in order to embed and prioritise early language development as a primary indicator of child wellbeing.

During the initial term of the contract a wider review of all SALT requirements will be undertaken. This will inform what the model needs to look like post March 2021. In order to mitigate any risk associated with delays to this review it is recommended to build in extension points to this arrangement. The proposed extension points will also enable the continuation of this arrangement if the review and future delivery model recommends the continuation of externally commissioning this element.

The recommended contract award establishes cooperation between the Authority and HDFT with the aim of ensuring that the public services both parties have to perform are provided with a view to achieving objectives which we have in common. It is in the public interest for both organisations to work together in delivery of these services to ensure maximum use of resources.

LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE

Advice has been sought from NYCC Legal Services and Procurement and Contract Management Service on the direct award. Legal Services have confirmed the direct award does not contravene state aid rules. A full state aid briefing note is included in the Annex at Appendix 1.

A Collaboration Agreement will be put in place to govern and manage the arrangement with HDFT.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Authority directly award the delivery of speech and language therapy provision to Harrogate District Foundation Trust (HDFT).