

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Council Officer



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL OFFICER

Executive Decision Reference Number – COD14 21/22

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Early Help Partnership (Family Hubs) Contract Award Report
2	Decision maker (Council Officer name and job title): Alison Botham, Director of Children's Services
3	Report author and contact details: Emma Crowther, Strategic Commissioning Manager, emma.crowther@plymouth.gov.uk
4a	Decision to be taken: Award of Early Help Partnership contract
4b	Reference number of original executive decision or date of original committee meeting where delegation was made: Cabinet – 9 th March 2021. Cabinet agreed for the contract award decision to be delegated to either the Strategic Director for People or the Director of Children's Services.
5	Reasons for decision: A compliant procurement process has been carried out and has identified a suitable group of provider partners to work with the local authority for the next ten years to design, deliver and embed 0-19 Family Hubs for Plymouth.
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: Not awarding the contract – this would have been considered if there had been no bidders for the contract or if bidders had not submitted bids of suitable quality.
7	Financial implications and risks: The current total annual spend on the services in scope of this approach, across in-house and commissioned services, is £7.5 million. However, the value of the Early Help Partnership contract itself is £0. The intention in working collaboratively, across services, over a period of time, is to identify areas where resources could be invested to greater effect, and also areas of duplication and inefficiency. This will lead to sustainable efficiencies in the budget for the partnership; establishing targets for efficiencies can be included in the work programme. It will also be the intention of the partnership to maximise joint bids for funding, to draw external resource into the city and directly into Early Help support for families. By working together, with a clear view of need and current resource, this will enable funding bids to be relevant, integrated and supported by evidence.

	By supporting positive outcomes for families through an Early Help approach, and preventing escalation into higher cost statutory interventions, we anticipate reducing the levels of demand and spend on those interventions.			
8	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			X	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			X	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1million
		X		is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
8b	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions			
9	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	<p>Caring for People and their Communities:</p> <p>A friendly welcoming city - Family Hubs will be communicated as available for all families with children and young people aged 0-19. We will ensure that any branding associated with the Family Hubs involves families in its design, and encourages all to feel welcome.</p> <p>Reduced health inequalities - the needs analysis which supported the Case for Change identifies a range of different needs across the city, with clear health inequalities present in some areas. These are likely to have been worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on more deprived communities. The Family Hubs approach to Early Help will help us to determine where resources need to be focused in order to address health inequalities and for this approach to evolved over time as needs change.</p> <p>People feel safe in Plymouth - the provision of Family Hubs will ensure that we build on the legacy of Children's Centres and their support for children aged 0-5, with a network of "places that feel safe" for families. These will be non-judgemental and welcoming places where families can seek help.</p> <p>Focus on prevention and early intervention - the development of Family Hubs, including a resilient and creative Early Help and Targeted Support offer will enable</p>		

		<p>families needing help to be identified earlier and offered the right help at the right time.</p> <p>Keep children, young people and adults protected - This proposal aligns with the work of the Safeguarding Partnership and findings of Serious Case Reviews in considering how to improve understanding of contextual safeguarding for children and young people; knowing their communities and local needs, and supporting professionals in their resilience.</p> <p>Improved schools where pupils achieve better outcomes - the Family Hubs approach will wrap around all those working with a child and their family, with schools and educational settings as a fundamental part of this system. The aim is for schools to feel more supported in working with children and young people where their needs are emerging or more complex; in turn, this will enable parents to feel more confident and children to focus on their academic attainment.</p>		
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	<p>The proposal aims to ensure that families receive the support they need, at the right time, in their community. This would reduce the need to travel to seek support, and escalation into more specialist services, which may not be available in Plymouth.</p>		
Urgent decisions				
11	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	X	
		No		(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	<p>Councillor Dave Downie, Education, Skills, Children and Young People</p> <p>Councillor Patrick Nicholson, Deputy Leader</p>		

13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	8 th December 2021						
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer				
		No	X					
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Alison Botham, Craig McArdle, Ruth Harrell					
		Job title	Director of Children's Services, Strategic Director for People, Director of Public Health					
		Date consulted	8 th December 2021					
Sign-off								
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS85 21/22					
		Finance (mandatory)	djn.21.22.205					
		Legal (mandatory)	MS/2/36820					
		Human Resources (if applicable)	AMI131221					
		Corporate property (if applicable)	N/A					
		Procurement (if applicable)	SS/SC/008/ED/12 21					
Appendices								
17	Ref.	Title of appendix						
	A	Early Help Partnership Contract Award Part I						
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes	X	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below.				
		No						
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7

18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title: Early Help Partnership Contract Award Part 2			X				
Background Papers								
19	<p>Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.</p> <p>Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</p>							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
N/A								
Council Officer Signature								
20	<p>I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.</p>							
Signature				Date of decision	14/12/2021			
Print Name	Alison Botham							