

# Cabinet



Date of meeting: 12 June 2023  
Title of Report: **Young Carers & Substance Misuse Business Case**  
Lead Member: Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall  
Lead Strategic Director: Anna Coles (Interim Strategic Director for People)  
Author: Karlina Hall, Commissioning Officer  
Contact Email: [Karlina.hall@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:Karlina.hall@plymouth.gov.uk)  
Your Reference:  
Key Decision: Yes  
Confidentiality: Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

To provide a business case for the procurement of substance misuse and young carers services for children and young people in Plymouth.

## Recommendations and Reasons

1. A procurement of young carers and substance misuse services is carried out, to have new contracts in place for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024;
2. The procurement will have two Lots. The new contracts will be for 5+3+3 years and will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. The anticipated end of the contracts with all extensions invoked would be 2035;
3. The award of the contracts for the services is delegated to the Strategic Director for People.

## Alternative options considered and rejected

To decommission the services – the provision of assessments of the needs of young carers is a statutory duty. Young carers and substance misuse services work to reduce harm to young people and prevent escalation into more intensive services. Both services work with families to support them and improve their resilience.

To deliver the services in-house – the Council does not have the clinical expertise to provide the substance misuse service. Young carers services are delivered by a partnership of commissioned and in-house services which enables a choice for children and young people, including dedicated youth services and more targeted individual support.

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The services align to Caring for People and Communities through focusing on prevention and early intervention and ensuring that children and young people are protected.

**Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

The business case proposed combining the Young Carers and Affected Others services, which will achieve efficiencies of £15,000 from 2024/25, in line with the Strategic Commissioning MTFP

**Financial Risks**

None identified – the proposed reduction in the service budget is considered to be proportionate and achievable from efficiencies generated by combining two related services.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

All services are delivered within the city boundary, in community spaces such as youth centres and other dedicated spaces. This supports children and young people from having to travel distances to be supported.

**Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

*\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give 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.*

The young carers service aims to support equality of opportunity for young people with caring responsibility, who can find their ability to engage with education, training, employment and social opportunities are constrained.

**Appendices**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>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.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Young carers and substance misuse							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							

**Background papers:**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished 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.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>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.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
N/A							

**Sign off:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Emma Crowther, Interim Head of Commissioning											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 17/05/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mrs Mary Aspinall ( <i>Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care</i> ) Date approved: 24/05/2023											