

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Subject of decision

NE12 Regional Procurement – Children’s Homes, Short Breaks and Independent Special Schools

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Jacqui Old, Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive summary (To be taken from written report)

On 13th February 2017, Cabinet granted approval for

- (1) the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Governance to proceed with the procurement exercise being led by Newcastle City Council on behalf of NE12+ that will establish a regional arrangement for contracts with children’s homes, residential short break providers and non-maintained and independent special schools and colleges. The contract period will be agreed in due course following consultation with legal and procurement representatives from all twelve authorities; and
- (2) the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding, in consultation with the Strategic Manager Finance (now Head of Finance), the Head of Law and Governance and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to enter into the NE12+ framework agreement following the procurement and subsequent call off contracts under the arrangement.

Since this time the Authority has participated in the NE12 collaborative procurement exercise. Newcastle City Council has acted as the lead authority for this on behalf of the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) and its Member Authorities and their Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

This report seeks approval to enter into a Flexible Procurement Agreement as anticipated in recommendation (2) above to appoint a number of providers to deliver placements for children and young people as outlined below:

- Department for Education registered independent special schools and colleges; day placements, weekly boarder placements and 52-week residential placements for children and young people aged 0-25 years;
- Residential children's homes for children and young people aged 0 – 18 years; and
- Ofsted registered residential short break services for children and young people aged 0 – 18 years.

5. Alternative Options considered

The Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding does not approve that the Authority enters the Flexible Procurement Agreement.

6. Decision(s)

The Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding authorises the Authority to enter into the Flexible Procurement Agreement for contracts with children's homes, residential short break providers and non-maintained and independent special schools and colleges.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

This regional collaborative arrangement is in keeping with regional priorities leading to more efficient service delivery. The Authority will benefit from a standardised and transparent pricing structure, consistency of quality across all providers and a more developed local market which can provide a range of placements to meet the needs of children and young people.

If the recommendation is not approved, the need to purchase external placements will continue and the Authority will need to undertake a separate procurement exercise without the benefits of collaborating with the rest of the region. There would be a significant additional cost in terms of officer time for procurement of a contract for the Authority alone, contract management and provider engagement as well as the risk that providers may focus their business development on meeting the needs of the NE12 member authorities and costs savings may be lost.

8. Date Decision Made

11th January 2018

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

Yes, the call-in period expires on Friday 19 January 2018 after 5.00pm

10. Date of Publication

Friday 12 January 2018

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

Friday 19 January 2018 after 5.00pm