

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Education, Skills & Culture Cabinet Board**

7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### **Report of the Head of Transformation – Andrew Thomas**

#### **Matter for Decision**

#### **Wards Affected:**

All Wards

### **Internal arrangements for Families First Funded Services**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

To seek delegated authority for the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning, (or his nominated representative) to enter into service level agreements with internal sections for the provision of support services for children as part of the Families First programme and to bring the service in respect of young carers in to the Council..

#### **Executive Summary**

In 2014, a range of services were established through commissioning and partnership agreements to deliver support services for children and families as part of the Families First programme. Those agreements have now come to an end and the Council is in receipt of new guidance from the Welsh Government for this area of work. Some services are performed in house by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Council”) and the Council wishes to continue these arrangements. One of the services in question has been carried out by an external service

provider and the Council would now wish to bring this service in house to complement the provision currently being undertaken.

## **Background**

Families First is a Welsh Government early intervention and prevention programme aimed at improving outcomes for children, young people and families. The Council receives an annual grant from the Welsh Government in respect of this programme.

The programme has a number of key elements:

1. Team Around the Family
2. Joint Assessment Family Framework (TAF Assessment)
3. Strategic Commissioning
4. Disability Focus

The Council developed a number of services to meet the requirements of the grant funding, including Team Around the Family, Family Play and Youth Services, which have been delivered in-house by teams within the Social Services, Health & Housing and Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning Directorates.

Following the publication of new Families First guidance in April 2017, the Council has developed specifications for a number of new services, with the intention to continue the arrangement to deliver some of these in-house. Eight Lots are being externally commissioned to secure providers for the other services.

It is the intention that Youth Services, Parenting Support and Team Around the Family are delivered in-house.

It is proposed that services for young carers, which are currently delivered by an external provider, are brought in-house to be integrated into the Youth Services, benefitting young carers through greater support and access to additional services from the wider youth service.

To ensure compliance with the Families First Grant Agreement, a Service Level Agreement will be drawn up between the Education and

Social Services directorate specifying the nature of the services to be performed and the monitoring obligations that will be undertaken.

As the Families First programme is grant funded, it is proposed that the Service Level Agreements will be for a period of two years, with the option to extend for a period of up to two years on annual basis, subject to appropriate performance. The agreements however will contain a suitable break clause that would allow termination in the event that the Families First funding comes to an end sooner than anticipated or there has been a breach of the contract or poor performance on the part of the appointed provider.

## **Financial Impact**

The Families First grant allocation is confirmed annually by Welsh Government. The allocation for 2017/18 is currently £1,964,194. At this stage the Council does not know what the allocation will be for 2018/19, however the Council will work on the assumption that the amount will be of a similar level. Clauses however will be incorporated into the Service Level Agreement and any contractors or service levels agreements to ensure that where funding levels are decreased by the Welsh Government, the contract value can be reduced if deemed necessary.

Delivering the services in the manner outlined makes a saving of approximately £50,000 against the existing arrangements, which can be invested in delivery of other services.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

An Equality Impact Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the initial screening assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

The EIA Screening Assessment is attached to the report at Appendix 1 for the purposes of the meeting.

## **Workforce Impacts**

It has been identified that with the services being transferred in house that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employees) Regulations 2006 may be applicable for the Young Carers Service. To date one employee of the current provider has been identified. Consultation will be held with the Head of Human Resources accordingly and if necessary a report will be taken to Personal Committee in this regard.

## **Legal Impacts**

The Council is a contracting authority for the purposes of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (the "Regulations") which govern this particular area of work. However, as the Council is not commissioning services externally, the impact of the Regulations is not applicable.

The Council has entered into a grant agreement with the Welsh Government and provided that the Council ensures best value in the proposed arrangements that it enters into there is nothing prohibiting the Council from performing services in house. Notification of this has been made to the Welsh Government so that they are aware of the Council's intentions.

## **Risk Management**

In the event that the Council did not enter into these internal arrangements, there would be a requirement to embark on a commissioning activity for the Families First programme meaning that in house service provision would be lost.

## **Consultation**

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended, having due regard to the Equality Impact Assessment, that:

- (1) The Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning (or his nominated representative) be granted delegated authority to agree the final specifications for services to be performed in house that are required to meet the requirements of the Welsh Government Families First Programme Guidance;
- (2) The Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning (or his nominated representative) be granted delegated authority to bring the services being performed by external providers in respect of young carers in house to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to fulfil the requirements of the Welsh Government Families First Programme Guidance;
- (3) The Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning (or his nominated representative) be granted delegated authority to enter into Service Level Agreements and any other associated documentation with the Social Services Health and Housing Directorate to fulfil the requirements of the Welsh Government Families First Programme Guidance;

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

To ensure that arrangements are in place to secure appropriate support services are in place for children, young people and families in the Neath Port Talbot area.

### **Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

### **Appendices**

None

## **List of Background Papers**

Neath Port Talbot Families First Needs Assessment, June 2017  
Welsh Government Families First Programme Guidance April 2017

## **Officer Contact**

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