



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL SOCIAL CARE HEALTH & WELLBEING CABINET BOARD

30th January 2020

**Report of the Head of Children and Young People Services – K.
Warren**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All Wards

Inter-Agency (Collaborative) Agreement Relating to the Provision of a Regional Speech and Language Therapy Service

Purpose of the Report:

To request that the Head of Children and Young People Services be granted delegated authority to agree the final terms of an Inter-Agency Agreement (“IAA”) with the City and County of Swansea (“CCoS”), for the delivery of a regional speech and language therapy (“SALT”) service, and accordingly enter into the IAA with CCoS.

Executive Summary:

The proposed SALT service will be part of the interventions available to children and young people residing in Hillside Secure Children’s Home or being supported by the Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service (“YJEIS”).

Officers from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (“the Council”) have worked in partnership with CCoS to establish a regional

SALT service that will be delivered by Swansea Bay University Health Board (SB UHB). CCoS will be the designated lead organisation in the purchasing of this service and will lead the management of the regional contract with SB UHB. Undertaking a regional approach will strengthen sustainability of services and maximise the available resources to ensure flexible service delivery, which can meet anticipated future demand.

There may be some minor revisions required to the draft IAA (Appendix 1), as such it is requested that the Head of Children and Young People Services is given delegated authority to agree the final terms of the IAA and to enter into the final IAA. The length of this contract will be to 31st March 2021.

Background:

Hillside currently commission a 0.4 FTE, band 6, SALT worker from SB UHB. The councils YJEIS purchase a speech and language therapy (SLT) service from SB UHB, delivered by a 0.6 FTE, band 6, SALT worker. These services help children and young people with speech and/or language difficulties understand the processes they are subject to as well as communicate and interact proficiently with a wide range of individuals.

The number of children and young people residing in Hillside or involved in the Council's YJEIS, who are identified as having speech, language and/or communication difficulties has increased. Up to 70% of children and young people referred to Hillside have been identified as having extreme speech and language difficulties. It has also been identified that 72% of children and young people involved with the Council's YJEIS have speech, language and/or communication difficulties.

In order to ensure that the Council is best placed to meet current and future demands for SALT services in Hillside and YJEIS, it is proposed that the Council enters into an IAA with CCoS to purchase a regional

SALT service from SB UHB. This service will comprise of a minimum of 160 sessions delivered to Hillside Secure Children's Home per year, 320 sessions delivered to the Council's YJEIS and 320 sessions delivered to CCoS YJEIS per year.

The above will equate to an increase in the current service of a 0.1 FTE, band 6, SALT worker. In addition, the service will also include a band 7 SALT worker, who will provide clinical direction for SALT services within the YJEIS. It is intended that this increased service will offer greater opportunities for the adaptation of all interventions delivered by the Council's YJEIS, to ensure that they are speech and language friendly and accessible to all children and young people and that there is increased opportunities for in-house training.

Entering into a regional agreement with CCoS to purchase this service from SB UHB will improve capacity and sustainability. The contract will commence in January 2020 and will run until 31st March 2021. This is because pooling resources is a more cost effective way of increasing provision and will enable SB UHB to provide a more flexible approach to utilising its specialist SALT team across the three services.

Officers will undertake a review in Q2 of the 2020/21 financial year in order to understand if the service has delivered its intended outcomes and to inform a decision on what arrangements should be put in place for 1st April 2021.

Financial Impacts:

At present the annual charge for Hillside Secure Children's Home is £18,000 and the YJEIS have a budget of £26,680, giving a total cost of £44,680.

The new service will require an annual contribution of £26,500 and £46,280 from Hillside and YJEIS respectively, giving a revised total cost of £72,780.

This equates to an overall increase of £28,100.

Hillside Secure Children's Home will look to recover their part of the additional cost through the fees that they charge.

The additional cost to the YJEIS will be met from within the existing Social Services budget allocation.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment (appendix 2) has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required because:

- The proposal does not look to change current services, the aim of the proposal is to ensure that there is continuity of provision and put in place a process to maximise available resources to increase sustainability and capacity;
- The impact assessment identified that the proposal has either a positive, neutral or no impact on people due to their protected characteristics;
- The impact assessment identified that the proposal will have a neutral impact on a person's ability to use Welsh as the service will continue to be delivered in a person's chosen first language;
- Biodiversity impacts are not applicable to this proposal;
- The proposal embraces the 5 ways of working.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

Entering into an IAA has no spatial impact on our valley communities and does not link to the impacts identified in the Cabinet's response to the Councils Task and Finish Group's recommendations on the Valleys.

Workforce Impacts:

No implications.

Legal Impacts:

The IAA is made under the powers conferred by Section 101 and 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 25 of the Local Government Wales Act 1994, the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, Sections 2, 19, 20 of the Local Government Act 2000.

The IAA sets out the arrangements under which CCoS will procure and contract the relevant services. Notwithstanding the existence of the agreement, the Council will remain responsible for discharging its statutory duties in relation to the All Wales Child Protection Procedures, Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Children Act 1989.

Risk Management Impacts:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have "due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
and

- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area”

The recommendations in this report will have a positive impact, as the service will help children and young people involved in YJEIS to understand complex information and the processes they are subject to, as well as being able to communicate and interact within this process.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item as the recommendations will not reduce access to services, change the nature of the services or negatively impact on those currently receiving a service.

Recommendations:

1. That the Head of Children and Young People Services be granted delegated authority to agree the final terms of the Inter-Agency Agreement with the City and County of Swansea for the delivery of a regional speech and language therapy service for Hillside Secure Children’s Home and the Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service.
2. Following the agreement of the final terms of the Inter-Agency Agreement, for the Head of Children and Young Peoples Services be granted delegated authority to enter into the contract with the City and County of Swansea until 31st March 2021;
3. That the City and County of Swansea be the designated lead organisation in the purchasing of this service from Swansea Bay University Health Board and lead the management of the regional contract.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To enable the Council to meet demands for SALT services and to ensure that there is a legally binding agreement setting out the approved terms of working in partnership with CCoS.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Inter-Authority Agreement

Appendix 2: First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

None

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