

## **NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION**

**DECISION OF: DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES  
IN CONSULTATION WITH: HEAD OF COMMISSIONING, DIRECTOR OF  
CHILDREN'S SUPPORT AND SAFEGUARDING, HEAD STRATEGIC OF  
PROCUREMENT, S151 OFFICER, MONITORING OFFICER  
DIRECTORATE: PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**



**DECISION NO:** PC36 2020/21 Scheme

**SUBJECT:** EXTENSION OF THE PATHWAYS TO ADULTHOOD CONTRACT FOR 2 YEARS, AS PER CONTRACT AWARD

**KEY DECISION:** YES

### **REASON:**

This 2-year extension exceeds the 500k threshold on spend, with a projected spend of c. 800k based upon 2018/19 and 2019/20 support costs (£404,237.24 and £400,964.93). This figure has not factored in the rent and utilities cost but can reasonably be expected to be below £25k per year (Q1 2020 cost is £6181.20).

### **BACKGROUND:**

The aim of this service is to support young people who are approaching a stage where they are transitioning from childhood to adulthood, with a focus on providing short break opportunities which lead to optimum independence and progression towards identified outcomes. The service is needs-led and uses person centred planning.

The provider can be flexible in their approach to service delivery, which was achieved by following an outcome focussed Competitive Dialogue tender which was co-produced with service users, their families and colleagues from P&C Social Care teams and partners at the CCG. The service specification is outcome focussed and the contract itself is flexible enough to allow for changes in need and service requirement over the life of the contract term. The project was developed in this way to address new legislation and previous short break block contracted services were no longer meeting needs of young people effectively. Our research also showed using traditional block contracted services for this client group is counterintuitive to developing personalisation.

The Pathways to Adulthood contract meets the needs of 14-25 year olds in North Somerset, who have been identified with Special Educational needs and/or a physical or sensory disability. The criteria and referral process were developed by the Disabled Children's Team and Transitional Social Workers from the CTPLD, some of whom now sit in the Transitions Team. The referral process is universal for both teams regardless of the young person's age. This will reduce the 'cliff edge' that exists when a child becomes 18 and anxiety it causes families due to the inherent differences between children's and adult services.

**North Somerset Council's Corporate Objectives, as per the Corporate Plan 2020-2024 are to be Open, Fair and Green.** Linking these to some of the Directorate of People and Communities' Objectives, the Pathways to Adulthood Contract provides:

- ‘a strong and cohesive welfare offer to vulnerable residents (shared with CSD)’ by offering respite stays and community outreach support to 14-24 years olds’, and their families, with complex and challenging needs; and
- ‘an opportunity to reduce the number of children in external residential and foster placements’ by providing a much-needed break for families from their caring roles, which can help to maintain family units

As per Contract Standing Orders, the original Contract Award for the Pathways to Adulthood factored in the option to extend the initial term of 5 years, by 2 years. This was agreed at the Executive Meeting on 2 February 2016.

## *26. Extending the term of the contract*

*26.1 If the original contract includes an option to extend the initial term and the authority to enter into the contract was given for the whole life contract value the relevant Director may authorise the extension period via a Director’s Decision.*

### **DECISION:**

To extend the contract for Pathways to Adulthood, which is delivered by Brandon Trust, currently at Pizey Avenue in Clevedon, for 2 years, from 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2023.

### **REASONS:**

The provision of the Pathways to Adulthood service is the only respite service in North Somerset and is heavily relied upon by both the Disabled Children’s Team (DCT) and the Community Team for Adults with Learning Disability (CTPLD) for respite for children and young people with additional needs aged 14-25 years old, as well as their families. The newly formed Transitions Team is also heavily involved with this service and a Supported Living Coordinator based within Contracts and Commissioning also works in conjunction to plan move on’s to supported living, for example. This service is in high demand and has continued to deliver a respite service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic for some of the most vulnerable young people in North Somerset, enabling families to cope when they might not have otherwise.

An extension for 2 years allows us to look at longer term sufficiency needs of the DCT and CTPLD in order to (re)commission an appropriate service for children and young people with complex needs who may need to access a short breaks respite provision.

### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

Extend the current contract – Recommended option: the decision to extend was agreed at Contract Award stage by the Executive in February 2016. This allows time for NSC to effectively plan and (re)commission the service for April 2023. Ongoing contract management will continue throughout, with attendance from various teams in order to address issues and maximise opportunities for joint working.

Do nothing – Not an option: the end of the initial term is 31 March 2021 and we have a statutory duty to provide respite provision under Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. Spot purchasing provision would not be an option due to the lack of suitable providers who are able to offer a short breaks/respite service in North Somerset and if it were to happen with the same provider would potentially be even more costly to the Local Authority and not allow the provider financial stability in order to plan the appropriate staffing establishment.

Commission a new service for April 2021 – Not an option: the current provider, Brandon Trust, has performed satisfactorily throughout the life of this contract, after the contract was Novated to them in April 2017 due to Enham not being able to deliver the contract. It does not make sense to try and commission a new provider within 6 months for many reasons – there is not the time to effectively engage the market as well as still being in partial lockdown due to COVID-19 which has hampered much commissioning activity.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND COSTS:

The budget for the Pathways to Adulthood contract was agreed at the original Contract Award stage (£2,400,000).

The total cost for **support hours** on the Pathways to Adulthood contract for the last 2 financial years are:

- 01/04/2018 – 31/03/2019 = £404,237.24
- 01/04/2019 – 29/03/2020 = £400,964.93

In addition to support hours, we are charged for Rent and Service Charges; Council Tax; Water Rates; Electricity; Gas; Refuse Collection; Clinical Waste and TV Licence (plus a £300 fee for admin as per the Novation Agreement). **As per the table below the building charges for the last quarter are £6181.20** (which come out of the Adult Social Care Budget). Therefore, we can reasonably expect the yearly cost to be <25k by extrapolating from the first quarter of this financial year.

Expense Name	Actual (P1 - P3)
Rent & Serve Charge	3247.17
Council Tax	198.61
Water Rates	582.38
Electricity	1078.09
Gas	231.99
Refuse Collect	235.46
Clinical Waste	150
T.V. Licence	157.5
	<b>5,881.20</b>

The Contracts and Commissioning Team have been working with Brandon Trust to ensure that 'Recharges' are properly accounted for in accordance with the Novation Agreement terms and conditions. Both Support and Building Costs are from the Revenue Budget.

### Funding

This is a jointly commissioned service between Children's Social Care, Adult's Social Care and the Bristol North Somerset South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group.

### LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

- The provision of a suitable respite care service remains a statutory requirement under the **Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970**, although the type of support is not specified.
- The **Children and Families Act 2014** and **Care Act 2014** require local authorities to ensure access to more personalised care services (the latter emphasises personalisation and delegating greater control to families and service users, whilst still

providing carers with a break from their caring role AND supporting young people to reach their optimum independence).

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Brandon Trust, the incumbent provider, are a local contractor and the provision is in the centre of North Somerset, a lot of work is done locally in the community of Clevedon and on site, for example 'Glastonbury at home' was recently held within the setting.

The contract itself references environmental implications by:

26.5.3 *Improving the environmental well-being of North Somerset by:*

26.5.3.1 *Using reasonable endeavours to develop and implement sustainable transport initiatives in the way in which the Services are delivered, including promoting and encouraging 'greener' ways of travelling such as walking and cycling, where appropriate and safe to do so*

## **CONSULTATION**

The Chairpersons of both Children and Young Person's Scrutiny and Adults Scrutiny Groups were emailed on 6 August 2020 to ask how they wish to be involved from a Scrutiny perspective with this extension. Gerald Hunt has spoken to Cllr Crosby (Chairperson of Adults Scrutiny Group), who is happy to sign off the extension. Charlotte Badger spoke with Cllr Griggs (Chairperson of CYPS), on 9 September 2020, who is happy to sign off the extension. Cllr Griggs would like to visit the setting once able.

Consultation has been had with the Service Lead for Contracts and Commissioning, as well as Team Leader at the provision itself regarding the extension who are happy to extend, however we are looking at a new proposal from the provider to potentially decrease the hourly rate by standardising, or block booking, the duration of stays to 24 hours rather than being variable depending on whether school is attended, for example, which shortens the stay and makes planning staffing establishment and costs difficult (NB. the original contract awarded to Enham was based on a model that charges NSC for 24 hours for each overnight stay).

An email asking for input from an operational perspective was sent to the Team Leaders for the DCT and CTPLD on 7 August 2020, as well as the Senior Social Worker for the Transitions Team who provided the following:

From the ATT point of view Pizey works well as there is a clear and easy transition pathway for YP using the service through from children's to adults services. Feedback from families has been positive and since Brandon has taken over the service seems more person centred in its' approach (10 August 2020).

*NB. The initial procurement exercise reflected outcomes of over two years of co-production with young people and their parent/carers. A parent reference group met to explore aspects of the redesigned service and a detailed consultation exercise with young people attending North Somerset Special Schools, focusing on the activities, advice and support they wanted to access, was undertaken by Playworks/Alison John Associates UK on behalf of the SEND Reform Programme. This work influenced the design of the service.*

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

### Threats or Opportunities

The key risk from not agreeing to the proposed action to extend this contract pertain to not having a suitable provider in North Somerset to be able to deliver provision of a suitable respite care service, which remains a statutory requirement under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. If the contract 'runs out' without an extension in place, the service demand will still be there and therefore we would be open to increased hourly rates if respite was spot purchased rather than the current 'soft block purchasing'.

### Mitigation or Maximisation

The service at Pizey Avenue has now got a waiting list for young people to receive a respite service and having a contract in place, with regular contract management, allows for issues to be identified and solutions to be found at an early point, rather than letting things escalate to the point where the contract is not being delivered appropriately. This has already been seen when the previous provider was awarded the contract, which is why the service was novated to Brandon Trust.

*NB. Prior to the original contract being awarded to Enham, there was project governance in place throughout the tender which included key stakeholders from across the Council and partners. The Pathways to Adulthood project working group reported to the SEND Board which reports to the Health Strategy and Integration Board.*

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No – a full EIA was conducted for this contract which supported the redesign and procurement of this service with considerable input from parents and young people and we are seeking an extension, not a change or undertaking a new piece of work. The provider supports some of our most vulnerable young people and their families. One service user is transgender; many are disabled and wheelchair users for example – the whole purpose is to help a disadvantaged group(s) of young people and their carers'.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

Pathways to Adulthood is a contract that delivers across both Children's and Adult's Support and Safeguarding. There are many teams who appreciate and value this service, including the Disabled Children's Team, the Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities, the Transitions Team and the SEND Team. Without 'Pizey' as a respite/short breaks service, there would potentially be more family breakdowns and an increase in young people having to enter residential colleges and homes where they might have been supported to remain at home with much needed respite breaks. The young people who also attend this setting benefit greatly and sets them on their 'Pathways to Adulthood', being supported to access the community and educational opportunities for example.

## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- P&C83 (2016/17 Scheme) *Novation to Brandon Trust from Enham*
- Report: *17 Pathways to Adulthood Contract Award (2/2/16)*
- *Pathways to Adulthood EIA*
- P&C44 (2014-15 Scheme) *Short Breaks for Children with SEND – Extension of Existing Contract Pending Service Remodelling*

- P&C91 (2014-15 Scheme) *Procurement of 14-25 Service for Children & Young People with Disabilities*

**AUTHOR**

Charlotte Badger, Contracts and Commissioning Officer (P&C)

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

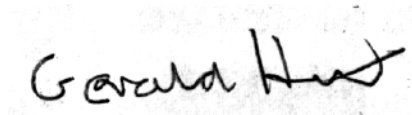


Signed: .....

Title: Director of People and Communities

Date: 7.10.20

IN CONSULTATION WITH:



Signed: .....

Title: Head of Commissioning

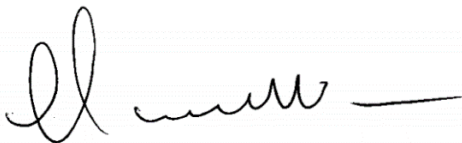
Date: 7.10.20



Signed: .....

Title: Interim Director of Children's Support and Safeguarding

Date: 7.10.20



Signed: .....

Title: Head of Strategic Procurement

Date: 7.10.20

*R. B. Perse*

Signed: .....

Title: s151 Officer

Date: 16.10.20

*N. P. Shaw*

Signed: .....

Title: Monitoring Officer

Date: 7.10.20

**Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable:**

