



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
16 MARCH 2004

Report of the Director of Social Services

Young Carers Service in Derby

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To agree to extend an existing contract with the NCH to provide a Young Carers service in Derby by one year.
- 1.2 Under Contract Procedure Rules C6 to waive Contracts Procedure Rule C15 relating to the requirement to obtain tenders.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 NCH provide a joint county/city service that is usually renewed for a three year period. However, the County Council is currently considering whether to put the service out for tender next year and so only wishes to extend the current contract by one year.
- 2.2 It is, very unlikely that any other organisation would be willing to enter into a similar partnership for only one year.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 For the last six years Derby Social Services Department and Derbyshire County Council Social Services Department have jointly commissioned the NCH to provide a Young Carers Service in Derby and in Derbyshire. Local Authorities have a duty to provide services to young carers as they are classified as children-in-need under the Children Act, 1989. Young carers are defined as children under 18 years who have significant caring responsibilities for adults within their households who have a physical disability or illness, or mental illness.
- 3.2 Usually, the contract is renewed for a three year period but the County Council is currently considering whether to put the service out for tender next year and so only wishes to extend the current contract by one year.

The service provided by the NCH is a joint county/city one and it would not be possible for the service to operate just in the city because the amount of grant funding £44.5K is too small. The contract is not strictly a commissioning one as the NCH contributes to the total cost of the joint project (£45.5K). Therefore, the contract is more of a partnership agreement.

It is, very unlikely that any other organisation would be willing to enter into a similar partnership and even more unlikely that they would be interested in doing so for only

one year, especially since the employees involved would have TUPE rights, i.e. a right to be transferred into the employment of whichever organisation/agency were to win the Contract.

- 3.3 The Social Services department needs to liaise with the County Social Services over the next few months in order to seek a joint partnership position and gain agreement on the way forward for services to young carers.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4. There would seem to be no other option than to agree to an extension of the existing contract for one year and to waive the requirement to obtain tenders.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. A total of £9,000 is likely to be paid to the NCH over the next year from this authority. This includes a contribution of £17,000 from the Carers Strategy and, in addition, the Children's Fund will provide £31,000 of the funding.

Legal

2. Under Contracts Procedures Rules C6 Cabinet can waive the requirement to obtain tenders for the service if satisfied this is justified in the circumstances.

Personnel

3. There are 2 whole time equivalent employees within the service who are entirely funded by City Council money – a third of the Project Manager's post is also funded by the City Council. All of these members of staff would have a right of transfer into any new organisation that took over the contract or by the Social Services department if it were decided to provide the service in house. Splitting the Project Manager post would obviously be very problematic and involve lengthy consultation processes with individuals and trade unions.

Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change

4. This accords with the Council's objective of **protecting and supporting people**.

