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Commissioning & Delivery
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Integration and Frameworks

ITEM 07

Integrated LAC Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service (The DECC) - Update

Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update on this contract in relation to the remaining contract term, contract delivery and performance and re-commissioning, leading up to this contract ending in August 2025.
- 1.2 The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service (named by our Children in Care as The DECC), is delivered by Action for Children (AfC). This service is for Children In Care & Care Leavers between the ages of 5 – 18 years of age, living within 25 miles of the city/county border.
- 1.3 The contract with Action for Children began in September 2020 and was approved for extension beyond its initial 3 year contract term in February 2023. This contract is now in it's first, 2 year extension, with the contract ending in August 2025.
- 1.4 A delivery and performance update for the financial year 2023/24, up to quarter 3 is included within this report, under the supporting information section.
- 1.5 Recommissioning activities with an action plan are already in place, leading up to the ending of this contract and the re-procuring arrangements, to ensure continuity of service provision for an emotional health and wellbeing support for our children in care and care leavers.
- 1.6 Derby City Council holds a contract with Action for Children for the delivery of this service. Contract management however is led by Derbyshire County Council as they are the lead commissioner of this service and will lead on the new procurement for 2025.

Both Derbyshire County Council and the Derby & Derbyshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) also have their own individual contracts running alongside Derby City's. There has been no formal partnership agreement in place during this contract and this will be remedied as part of the re commissioning and contracting arrangements going forward.

- 1.7 Derby City Councils' financial contribution is £236k per annum, with Derbyshire County Council contributing £450k per annum and the ICB contributing £847k per annum. The total annual financial project contribution for this provision is £1,533k per annum.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the above points as outlined in points 1.1 to 1.7.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 Derby City Childrens' Social Care teams access this specialist emotional health and wellbeing service for children in care and care leavers, along with families/carers and professionals supporting this vulnerable cohort, receiving specialist support to maintain placements, stability and keep children in care local.

- 3.2 This Provider delivers the locally recognised NHS commissioned service and we refer our children in care/care leavers and their parent/carers and professionals, for the required tailored direct interventions, therapeutic direct support for children, alongside therapeutic parenting support.

Supporting information

- 4.1 In 2019, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and the Derby & Derbyshire ICB all entered individual contracts with this Provider to secure this provision to meet the emotional health and wellbeing needs of our children in care and care leavers.

The individual contracts for all three organisations began on 01 September 2020 to cover 5 years, with a 3-year initial term and the option to extend by two, 12-month annual increments. Derby City Council approved the 2 year extension in February 2023.

- 4.2 The interventions detailed below are an integral part of our response in the city to support children in care and care leavers, their families, carers and professionals including social workers, at a specialist level on social, emotional and mental health needs:

- Direct trauma work - including creative therapy approaches, therapeutic work based on Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP).
- 'Wrap' around intervention - to support step down for children and young people in care, with support to parents/carers/professionals, including social workers.
- Attachment Interventions – including attachment focused parenting group (specific groups for carers and SGO/kinship carers) and therapeutic parenting or dyadic child - carer intervention based on models of DDP, Filial play therapy or Thera-play.
- Consultation - series of 6 consultations or one-off bookable consultations covering issues like harmful sexual behaviour (HSB).
- Reflective practice – regular sessions to Derby City internal residential homes and our leaving care teams (from May 2023), carer groups (carers who support most complex children), social care supervisor group and Derby City Special Guardianship Orders group.
- Joint complex care planning – multi-disciplinary team approaches to support most complex cases.

- 4.3 The table below details the financial contributions into this contract by all three organisations per annum, throughout the 5 year contract term.

Derby City Council Contribution	Derbyshire County Council Contribution	Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group Contribution	Total
£236,000	£450,000	£847,000	£1,533,000

4.4 Contract Delivery & Performance

The following information provides an overview of the direct intervention figures as of the end of Q3, for Derby City children, showing the service allocation in accordance with proportions of funding from each Local Authority (2:1):

- From an average service caseload of 70 children, **24 of these are Derby City Children – which is 34%**. This includes Direct Intervention, Attachment Group and the Waiting List.
- On the current waiting list, waiting times remain low with all **Derby City children waiting no more than 0-3 months**, so far this year.
- The target 'Direct Intervention' caseload for the service for 2023-24 was 53, yet the average Direct Intervention caseload YTD is 57, therefore exceeding that target. From the 57, **19 have been Derby City children (this is 33%)**.
- **86 Consultation Slots have been offered to Derby City Children, which is 30% of the overall.**
- **30% of our Reflective Practice resource is allocated to Derby City** (1 x Leaving Care Group, 2 x Foster Carer Groups, 1 x SSW Therapeutic Parenting Group/Training-*due to start in April 2024*).

- 4.5 The Provider is collaborating with us on exploring creative ways for improving children's emotional wellbeing and access to therapeutic care, within the context of an emerging increase in the complexity of need.

One of these is the Derby City led 'Mockingbird' project, looking to provide a package of therapeutic input specifically to the 4 x D2N2 Hub Constellations. Another is supporting the D2N2 Specialist Homes Project, to provide therapeutic input to support stabilisation for children whose needs are highly complex and not able to be met by other care provisions.

- 4.6 Supporting therapeutically around children's harmful sexual behaviour (HSB) also continues to be an area of distinct development by the Provider, with HSB consultations and educative HSB webinars being offered across the year.

- 4.7 A new training programme is being launched jointly with Derby City and Derbyshire Supervising Social Workers, which will provide the opportunity for 20 SSWs to embark on a 12 month programme developing understanding of how to support Therapeutic Parenting. This will accompany two new Reflective Practice groups for 12x Derby City Foster Carers.

- 4.8 A full training programme, open to all social workers and foster carers, has been delivered during 2023-24. In Q1 to Q3 16 Training Days have been delivered, which has reached **95 Derby City staff and carers**, a further 53 Derby City spaces were booked by staff but these were not taken up due to late cancellations or no shows, totalling 148 training spaces.

This offer has included a bespoke training day for Derby City around Life Story and Narrative work, collaborating with the 'My Life My Journey' leads within the council.

- 4.9 The service now has two service delivery bases across Derby and Derbyshire. The primary service hub is located at Cromford Mills, with the second base now operational and within Derby City, at Austin Sunnyhill Children's Centre.

- 4.10 Derby City Council is working closely with Derbyshire County Council and the Derby & Derbyshire ICB in securing feedback from our Childrens' Social Care teams and partners, on current delivery and an updated Needs Assessment for this cohort. This will then inform the service specification, upon this contract ending in August 2025.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 Quarterly Contract Review meetings with the key partners is held to ensure that a continued and strong focus is maintained on current delivery and performance and any emerging needs. Feedback from all the Childrens' Social Care teams and the Needs Assessment for this cohort will inform the recommissioning priorities and service specification.

Other options

- 6.1 Market Engagement as part of the recommissioning activities will ensure further engagement with suitable providers within the market, to ensure the continuity of this specialist emotional health and wellbeing service for our children in care and care leavers.
- 6.2 Not to recommission this specialist emotional health and wellbeing service would cause disruption and instability for our children in care and care leavers, with them not having their emotional and mental health needs met in a timely manner.

This potentially could also result in longer waiting lists at CAMHs as this cohort of children and young people would require their services. Furthermore, it is highly likely that there would be increases in the requests for health contribution via complex cases and an increase in the costs of packages of care.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 The financing of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service for children in care and care leavers across the Derby City and Derbyshire footprint was agreed by Derby & Derbyshire ICB, Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council in 2019 with a cost of £7,665,000 for a period of 5 years (3 years plus 1 plus 1).
- 7.2 The cost per annum to Derby City Council is £236,000, this cost is covered in full by the current budget allocation of £236,000. Derbyshire County Council has been contributing £450,000 per annum and the Derby & Derbyshire ICB £847,000 per annum.
- 7.3 The actual expenditure incurred on the contract since 1 September 2020 has been as follows:
- 2020/21 = £137,074 (7 months)
 - 2021/22 = £236,593
 - 2022/23 = £236,000
 - 2023/24 = £236,000

Legal implications

- 8.1 Derby City Council contracted directly with the provider (AfC) for a contract which was entered into on 18 February 2021 with a service commencement date of 1 September 2020. Currently we are not able to confirm that Derby City Council signed the original contract, although we do have internal correspondence indicating that this was signed. We do hold a signed contract from the Provider. The service has been proceeding on the basis that Derby City Council has signed and there is a rebuttable presumption in law that the contract which we hold which has been executed by the Provider (but not dated) are the enforceable terms of the contract being performed.
- 8.2 In order to comply with the contract's requirement for 3 months' notice to extend, we need to notify the provider that we are extending by 31 May 2024 (for the second and final extension period).

- 8.3 Derby City Council has a standalone agreement with the Provider, with no obligations or rights affecting either Derbyshire County Council or the ICB. Our Contract only contains provision for the payment of our contribution to the cost of the Services (being a fixed £236,000 per annum) with no obligation for us to pay Derbyshire or the ICBs contributions.
- 8.4 Currently it also does not appear that there is a partnership agreement in place between Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council and the ICB. Our Contract is standalone and we have no obligations in terms of reporting or any other party's contributions. As such, it is likely to be of limited benefit at this stage in the contract entering into a partnership agreement with Derbyshire County Council and the ICB. It would be prudent to consider a partnership agreement when we come to consider the re-procurement of this contract in the future.

Climate implications

9.1 N/A

Other significant implications

10.1 N/A

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal & Insurance Services	07/03/2024
Finance	Janice Hadfield, Head of Finance	08/03/2024
Service Director(s)	Suanne Lim, Director Early Help & Children's Social Care	
Report sponsor	Gurmail Nizzer, Service Director, Integrated Commissioning for Children and Young People	
Other(s)	Catherine Young, Head of Children's Commissioning, Brokerage and Market Management	06/03/2024
Background papers:	n/a	
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – The DECC Service Offer Leaflet	

Emotional Health & Wellbeing Service – Offer Leaflet



DECC Leaflet.pdf