

15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Agenda Item: 8

## **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMISSIONING AND RESOURCES**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL POSTS WITHIN THE COMMISSIONING AND PLACEMENTS GROUP**

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

1. The purpose of this report is to formally establish two additional posts within the Commissioning and Placements Group, and to make permanent a third post that currently exists on a temporary basis, from July 2020.

#### **Information**

2. The Group performs the role of a commissioning hub for the department, bringing together the commissioning and contract management process across a range of specialist care / education provision for vulnerable children and young people, including:
  - foster care and residential home placements for Looked After Children (LAC)
  - semi-independent / supported accommodation for older LAC and care leavers, homeless 16/17 year olds, and vulnerable 18-21 year olds
  - Short Break services for children and young people with a disability – to promote independence and to provide parents/carers with a break from caring; and
  - alternative / specialist education placements in the independent and non-maintained sector for children and young people with an Education Health & Care Plan (EHCP), as appropriate.
3. The overall spend on the above services is in excess of £60m per annum, with Local Authority budget used for the care-related services and Schools Budget (High Needs Block) for the education provision. An individual child or young person with particularly complex needs may have commissioned services funded via Local Authority, health and education budgets.
4. The three posts described below will contribute to the wider commissioning and contract management of specialist education placements within the independent and non-maintained schools sector for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan whose presenting needs are such that receiving their education in a mainstream setting is not possible. The Council maintains a contractual framework of approved independent and non-maintained providers through which most externally commissioned education placements are sourced and to which the Council applies a robust contract management and quality assurance process. These posts, which it is proposed be established from July

2020, will provide necessary additional capacity effectively to fulfil the contract management process and to work with health partners to ensure cost effective joint commissioning arrangements are in place for those young people whose Education, Health and Care Plans require this.

<u>Post Details</u>	<u>Pay Band</u>	<u>Cost per Annum</u>
• 1 fte Contracts Officer	Band B	£44,872
• 1 fte Service Organiser	Grade 4	£27,616
• 1 fte Placement Review Officer	Band C*	£51,054
		<b>£123,542</b>

*\* = this post was established on a temporary basis to September 2020 following approval by the Children and Young People’s Committee at its meeting in October 2018.*

- The Schools Forum has acknowledged the growth in volume and case complexity attaching to specialist education placements within independent and non-maintained sector and these three posts constitute an eligible charge against the High Needs Block of the Schools Budget .

### **Other Options Considered**

- When originally established, the contractual framework provided for a joint commissioning and contract management arrangement with Nottingham City Council for some of the specialist placements in the non-maintained sector, and with it the opportunity for a joint approach for contract management. However, the City Council ceasing this arrangement, together with the growth in volume and case complexity, has led to the position where additional capacity within this Council is now required.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

- This option will provide for an appropriate level of resource to be deployed in contract managing the statutory education provision for vulnerable children and young people that is commissioned from external providers.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

- This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

- The total cost of these posts in a full year is £123,542 and will be met from identified funding within the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2020. There are no direct financial implications for the Local Authority budget.

## **Human Resources Implications**

10. Recruitment to the proposed posts will be subject to the Council's usual enabling and recruitment processes.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That Committee approves the establishment of the following posts in the Commissioning and Resources Group from July 2020:
  - 1 fte Contracts Officer (Band B)
  - 1 fte Service Organiser (Grade 4)
  - 1 fte Placement Review Officer (Band C)\*

**Laurence Jones**  
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## **Constitutional Comments (KK 28/05/20)**

11. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee.

## **Financial Comments (SAS 02/06/20)**

12. The total cost of these posts in a full year is £123,542 and will be met from the SEND Divisional budget of which £0.513m is within the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. There are no direct financial implications for the Local Authority budget.

## **HR Comments (BC 21/05/20)**

13. The staffing implications are contained within the body of the report. Posts will be recruited to in accordance with the agreed employment procedures.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Reorganisation of staffing within Commissioning & Placements Group – report to Children and Young People's Committee on 20 May 2019](#)

[External placements budget for Looked After Children – Children and Young People’s Committee on 15 October 2018](#)

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C1369